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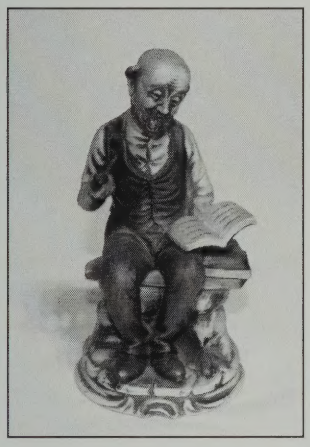

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PO Box 6321
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ph: (719) 302-5686
fax: (719) 302-4933

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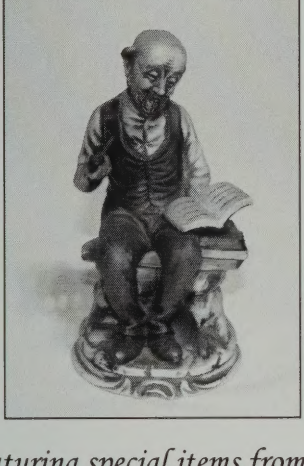

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Pl 1

THE

COINAGE OF IRELAND

IN

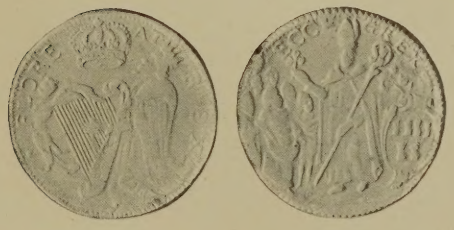
COPPER, TIN, AND PEWTER,

1460-1826.

BY

PHILIP NELSON, M.D.

MEMBER OF THE BRITISH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.



LONDON:
A. H. BALDWIN, DUNCANNON STREET.
LIVERPOOL:
W. M. MURPHY, 79, RENSHAW STREET.

1905.

TO

R. A. H.

AS A

TOKEN OF ESTEEM.

PREFACE.

It is now some forty years since the Rev. Henry Christmas published his brief review on the Copper Coins of Ireland.

During the interval which has elapsed since that event not a few coins have been brought to notice, and additional information has been discovered, both of which facts render a more complete account of the Coinage of Ireland in the baser metals a necessity.

In placing this work in the hands of my fellow students in the domain of Numismatics, I may say that I lay little claim to having produced much that is original, but rather have I aggregated from many sources all that is now known concerning this most interesting subject and I trust that my efforts may bring into greater prominence matter which has almost been lost to sight.

I cannot fail here to record my indebtedness to past writers on the subject we are about to review. Foremost among these I would instance, Simon, Lindsay, Christmas, and Aquilla Smith, the last probably the most careful author and most indefatigable worker on the coins of Ireland.

The larger proportion of the coins which illustrate this work were most kindly provided by the Royal Irish Academy, the British Museum, and Mr. R. A. Hoblyn, F.S.A., whilst the remainder are from my own cabinet.

I cannot here too gratefully acknowledge the assistance which I have so liberally and unsparingly received from Mr. Richard A. Hoblyn, F.S.A., and from Mr. Lionel Fletcher. Without this help I should have hesitated to attempt so lengthy a subject, for, incomplete as it may be, it would have been far more so if deprived of their knowledge and of the results of their study.

At the same time I desire to record my thanks to all those, too numerous to mention by name, who have at so much trouble to themselves so willingly communicated information relative to the Coinage of Ireland, and I must in addition thank Mr. W. J. Andrew, F.S.A., for many valuable suggestions whilst this work was passing through the press.

I also take this opportunity of expressing my indebtedness to the President and Council of the British Numismatic Society for their kind permission to reprint these pages from the Society's *Journal.*

The casts from which the illustrations were prepared were made by the Messrs. Ready, both of whom are, I think, to be congratulated upon the excellent results they have achieved.

PHILIP NELSON.

73, Rodney Street,
Liverpool, W.

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THE COINAGE OF IRELAND IN COPPER, TIN, AND PEWTER.

THE coinage of Ireland in the baser metals, began during the reign of Henry VI., in the year 1460, and continued through a period of nearly four hundred years, until the reign of George IV., at which time the coinages of England and Ireland were assimilated. From the above it will be seen that the issue of pieces in copper for use in Ireland preceded the corresponding coins for the sister kingdom by about one hundred and forty years, since it was not until 1601 that patterns for a copper currency were prepared for England.[1]

HENRY VI., 1422–1461.

HALF-FARTHING.

Half-farthings were authorized in the year 1460, of which the following is the description :—

Obverse.—✠PATRIK O, surrounding an open crown, within a circle of pellets.

Reverse.—A cross pattée within a circle of pellets. Weight, 11 grains. Pl. I, 1.

Varieties occur, with the crown closed, Pl. I, 2 ; with a cross following K, upon the reverse of which P is found in one quarter of the cross. Pl. I, 3.

[1] All coins are struck in copper unless the contrary is expressed.

EDWARD IV., 1461–1483.

In the year 1463 an Act was passed confirming letters patent granted to one Germyn Lynch, goldsmith of London, whereby he was created warden and master worker of the mints at Dublin and Trim. He was thereby empowered to issue pieces of the value of farthings and half-farthings, struck in brass, for the use of his mint workmen.

THE PATRICIVS FARTHING. 1463.

Obverse.—**PATRICIVS** A bishop's head, mitred, full face, on the right of which is an eight-rayed sun, and on the left a six-leaved rose.

Reverse.—**S AL VA TOR** A cross pattée with roses and suns in alternate angles, suns and roses alternately dividing the letters in the legend. Weight, 12½ grains. Pl. I, 4.

VARIETIES.

Obverse.—1. A sun to the left, a rose to the right of the mitre. 2. A cross replacing the rose to the left of the mitre. Pl. I, 5.

Reverse.—The letters are divided by alternate mullets and roses, with a cross pattée, mullets and roses in alternate angles.

HALF-FARTHING. 1463.

Obverse—A crown surrounded by roses and crowns.

Reverse.—A cross extending to the edge of the coins with three pellets in each angle. Weight, 6 grains.

FARTHING. 1467.

Obverse.—**EDWARDVS DNS HYBER.** A shield bearing three crowns, two and one, a small cross occurs above and on each side of the shield. Mint mark, a rose.

Reverse.—**CIVITAS DVBLIN.** A cross pattée with a rose at the points of junction of the limbs, dividing the coin to the outer circle; in each of the quarters so formed are three rays extending to the inner circle. Weight, 9½ grains. Pl. I, 7.

A variety occurs reading **HYBERNI** on the obverse, and **DVBLINIE** on the reverse

HALF-FARTHING. 1470.

Obverse.—Full-faced bust of king crowned, within a dotted circle.

Reverse.—A cross, within a dotted circle, three pellets within each angle. The legends on both sides are illegible. Weight, 3½ grains. Pl. I, 6.

This coin corresponds with the sixth silver issue of this king.

During the period of the following one hundred and thirty years no copper coinage was issued for Ireland, and it was not until 1601 that the next copper money appeared for use in that kingdom.

ELIZABETH, 1558–1603.

In the year 1601 it was proposed to strike pieces in copper of the value of pence, halfpence and farthings, in order to maintain the army at that time engaged in the suppression of O'Neill's rebellion. We have of the years 1601–1602 pieces of the two first values, but of the latter none are now known to exist. They were struck at the rate of 190½ pence to each pound of copper.

PENNY.

Obverse.—**ELIZABETH • D : G : AN : FR : ET : HIBER : RE :** A shield bearing the arms of France (modern) and England quarterly between **E R**. Mint mark, a star.

Reverse.—**POSVI • DEV : ADIVTOREM. MEV :** Irish harp, surmounted by a crown, on either side of the harp is the date 16–01. Mint mark, a star. Weight, 30 grains. Pl. I, 9.

On pence of the year 1601 we also find the trefoil and cross as mint marks, whereas the martlet and crescent are the mint marks on the pence of 1602.

HALFPENNY.

Obverse.—**ELIZABETH • D : G : AN : FR : ET : HIB : RE :** Type as the penny. Mint mark, a star.

Reverse.—Type as the penny. Mint mark, a star. Weight, 15 grains. Pl. I, 8.

The trefoil and cross also occur as mint marks for 1601, the martlet alone for 1602.

JAMES I. 1603–1625.

On April 10th, 1613, John, Lord Harington, of Exton in Rutland, obtained a patent for a period of three years to coin pieces of the value of a farthing, to be current in England, Ireland and Wales, each of which was to weigh 6 grains, the profits from which coinage he was to share with the King, and at the same time all other tokens were declared to be illegal.

The want of coins of small value had at this time occasioned the increase of a practice which greatly needed reformation. Private traders, finding themselves unable to carry on their business without smaller money than the legal coins, were driven by necessity to provide something to supply the deficiency of the lawful currency; and accordingly they had, for some years past, struck farthing tokens, as they were called, in lead.

Both the conveniences, and also the evils, which resulted from this infringement of the royal prerogative, were fully stated in the proclamation by which these illegitimate coins were abolished upon the 19th May in the year 1613.

> It commenced with an acknowledgment that in times past some toleration had existed in the realm of tokens of lead, commonly known by the name of farthing tokens, to pass between vintners, tapsters, chandlers, bakers and other like tradesmen and their customers; whereby such small portions and quantities of things vendible as the necessity and use, especially of the poorer sort of people, oftentimes required, might be conveniently bought and sold without enforcement to buy more ware than would serve for their use and occasions. But it objected that the manner of issuing them and the use of them, as they passed only between customers, did not that good to the public which might by a more general use be effected. That they were subject to counterfeiting, loss and deceit; for sometimes they were refused as doubtful things, and sometimes by the death or removal of those who gave them, were lost and discredited. And also, that it was some derogation to the royal prerogative that such tokens should be allowed to have currency in any degree with the lawful money of the realm. Therefore notice was given by the proclamation that His Majesty, being willing to continue to his subjects the good arising from the use of such small monies under such

directions and cautions as might restrain the abuse of them, had given power and authority by letters patent to John, Lord Harrington (*sic*), baron of Exton, and his executors, administrators, deputies and assigns, to make such a competent quantity of farthing tokens of copper as might be conveniently issued amongst his subjects within the realms of England and Ireland, and the dominion of Wales, during the term mentioned in the said letters patent. That it was not his Majesty's intention thereby to make them monies, nor to force his subjects to receive them in payments, otherwise than with their own good liking, but only to give them licence and means to use them according to their occasions, and that without any fee, charge, or constraint in any wise imposed upon them.

The proclamation further declared, that the said farthing tokens should be made exactly and artificially of copper by engines and instruments, having on the one side two sceptres crossing under one diadem, and on the other side a harp crowned with the king's title, JACOBUS DEI GRATIA MAGNÆ BRITANNIÆ FRANCIÆ ET HIBERNIÆ REX; with a privy mark to be set upon them, from time to time, whereby to discern and distinguish them, and to be altered according to occasion, for preventing the falsifying and counterfeiting of the same. Such farthing tokens to pass for the value of farthings within the king's realms and dominions, with the liking and consent of his loving subjects.

And therefore it was commanded by the proclamation that, after the feast of the nativity of St. John Baptist next following the date thereof, no person should use, deliver, or receive any such leaden tokens as were formerly tolerated, nor make or counterfeit such farthing tokens of copper, or the engines or instruments by which they should be made, nor utter any other farthing tokens whatsoever upon such pains, penalties and imprisonments as might be inflicted by the statutes of the realm of England, and by the king's prerogative royal.

In order for the better distributing and dispersing these farthing tokens, the Lord Harrington was bound to deliver at the rate of one and twenty shillings in farthing tokens for every twenty shillings in sterling money; and also for the space of one year, until the said tokens should have grown into more general use and were well dispersed, to deliver to any person who should find himself surcharged with more of them than he could conveniently utter for his use and occasions, the sum of twenty shillings in sterling money, for every sum of one and twenty shillings in farthing tokens, and after that rate for lesser sums where any tradesman should require the same. All magistrates etc., were commanded to assist Lord Harrington in circulating them. *Ruding*, Vol. I, p. 369.

As Lord Harington, and his son also, died shortly afterwards, the patent was re-granted to Ann Lady Harington, and subsequently to the Duke of Lennox. The original contractors for this coinage were Gerard Malynes and William Cockayne.

The coinage may be described as follows:—

FARTHING.

Obverse.—IACO : D : G : MAG : BRIT : (BRI :). A crown with two sceptres in saltire.

Reverse.—FRA : ET : HIB : REX. A harp, above which is a crown. Weight, 6 grains. Pl. I, 10.

The mint mark usually occurs on the obverse only, but on some few examples it is found on both sides. In such cases the following mint marks occur, viz. :—

Cross, Fusil, Flower and Rose.

The mint marks which are found on the obverse only, are—

Annulet.
Ball.
Bell.
Boar's head.
Cinquefoil.
Comet.
Coronet.
Crescent.
Cross.
„ fitchée.
St. George's Cross imposed upon St. Andrew's.
Crown.
Dagger.
„ inverted.
Eagle's head erased.
Ermine spot.
Fleur de lys.
Three ditto.
Flower.
Fret.
Fusil.
Grapes.
Key.
Lion passant.
„ rampant.
Lozenge.
Martlet.
Mullet pierced.
Pellet.
Quatrefoil.
Rose.
Serpent.
Star.
Spur-rowel.
Stirrup.
Sword.
Thistle head.
Tower.
Trefoil.
Two ditto inverted.
Triangle.
Tun.
Woolpack.

Varieties are found with mint marks on the reverse only, viz., a cinquefoil, martlet, and fleur de lys. Pl. I, 11.

There is a variety on which the legend, instead of reading from the top, as on the previous examples, reads from the left lower

quadrant, and on this the mint mark Cross occurs on both sides. Pl. I, 12.

A very small piece, weighing about 5 grains, has been thought to have been intended for a half-farthing, of which the design is similar to the first farthing described. Pl. I, 13. The mint mark, a fret clouée, occurs only on the reverse, and is described as the "Harington Knot." Immediately beneath the crown between the lower ends of the sceptres may be found one of the following capital letters :—

A, B, C, D, E, F, or the figures 0, 1, 2.

CHARLES I. 1625–1649.

On July 11th, 1626, the previous patent was confirmed to Sir Francis Crane, and Frances, Dowager Duchess of Richmond, for the coining of farthing tokens for a period of seventeen years, for which privilege they were to pay an annual rent of 100 marks to the Crown, and the tokens were to be changed at the rate of 21*s.* to the pound sterling.

No. 1. *Obverse.*—CARO : D : G : MAG : BRIT : (BRI :). Above two sceptres in saltire, a crown.
Reverse.—FRA : ET : HIB : REX : A harp surmounted by a crown. Weight, 7 grains. Pl. I, 15.

The mint marks, of which the following are found, occur on the obverse only—

Annulet.
„ with pellets.
„ beneath cross.
Ball.
Battle axe.
Bell.
Bellflower.
Billet.
Cannon.
Castle.
Cinquefoil.
Comet.
Coronet.
Crescent.
„ with mullet.
Cross.
„ pellets in angles.
„ on steps.
„ fitchée.
„ fleury.
„ pattée.
„ on pellet.
Crown.
Dagger.
Dagger inverted.
Eye.
Fetter lock.
Figure I.
Fleur de lys.
Two ditto.
Three ditto.
Fleur de lys horizontal.
Fusil.
Two ditto.
Hand.
Heart.

Helmet.	Martlet.	Shield.
Hook.	Mascle.	Star.
Horseshoe.	Nautilus.	Star-fish.
Key.	Negro's head.	Tower.
„ crowned.	Omega.	Tree.
Leaf.	Pear.	Trefoil.
Leopard's head.	Pheon.	Triangle.
Lion crowned.	Quatrefoil.	Tun.
„ rampant.	Rose.	Vase.
Lozenge.	Serpent.	Woolpack.

In the Imperial cabinet at Vienna there is a silver proof reading on the obverse—BRI. Mint mark, cross.

An example occurs with mint mark lozenge, reading CARO, struck over IACO.

No. 2. *Obverse.*—CARO : D : G : MAG : (MA :) BR : (BRI : or BRIT :) Surmounting two sceptres in saltire, a crown.

The legend reads from the left lower quadrant, whilst the mint mark is found below—

Reverse.—FRA : ET : HIB : REX. A harp, above which is a crown. Weight, 6·5 grains. Pl. I, 16.

The following mint marks occur, always on the obverse, but sometimes also on the reverse :—

Crescent.	Fleurs de lys.	Fret.
Small cross.	Three fleurs de lys.	Rose.
Cross pattée.		

A variety reads :—

Obverse.—CAROLVS · D ⁝ G ⁝ MAG ⁝ BRI ⁝
Reverse.—FRAN : ET : HIB : REX. Mint mark, fleur de lys. Pl. I, 16.

No. 3. *Obverse.*—CAROLVS . D ⁝ G ⁝ MAG ⁝ BRIT. Within a dotted circle, above two sceptres in saltire, a crown.
Reverse.—FRAN . ET . HIB . REX. Within a dotted circle a harp, above which is a crown. Weight, 12 grains. Pl. I, 17.

The following mint marks occur on both obverse and reverse :—

Bell.	Eye.	Harp.	Nautilus.	Shield.
Cross.	Fleur de lys.	Martlet.	Rose.	Woolpack.

There also exist the following mint marks differing on obverse from reverse :—

Obverse.—Fleur de lys	=	*Reverse.*—Portcullis.		
„ Fret	=	„ Fleur de lys.		
„ Harp	=	„ Bell.		
„ Harp	=	„ Woolpack.		
„ Martlet	=	„ Bell.		
„ Portcullis	=	„ Woolpack.		
„ Woolpack	=	„ Portcullis.		
„ „	=	„ Rose.		

Examples are known with the following mint marks on the obverse only :—

Harp. Woolpack. Fleur de lys.

The specimens of this type are of excellent workmanship and design.

All these coins were impressed upon thin sheets of copper and subsequently cut out with a punch, Pl. I, 14 ; but examples have survived to our time, on which as many as nine coins occur on one strip of metal. *Weightman Cabinet.* Mr. Baldwin informs me that he once saw an undivided plate bearing about eighty-one coins.

On account of the abuses developed in connection with the above described tokens, a new farthing, called the rose or royal farthing, was issued in 1635, and of this there exist three distinct varieties.

No. 4. *Obverse.*—CAROLV : D : G : MA : (MAG :) BR . (BRI :) Above two sceptres, in saltire horizontally, a single-arched crown.

Reverse.—FR : ET HIB : REX : Above a rose a single-arched crown, mint mark on both sides, a mullet. Weight, 15 grains. Pl. I, 18.

No. 5.—CAROLVS (CAROLV) D : G : MA : (MAG :) BR (BRI or BRIT). Above two sceptres in saltire perpendicularly, a crown.

Reverse.—FR. (FRA or FRAN) ET . HI . (HIB) REX, rose under crown. Weight, 13 grains. Pl. I, 19.

The following are the mint marks found :—

Obverse.—	Mullet	=	*Reverse.*—	Mullet.
„	Crescent	=	„	Crescent.
„	Mullet	=	„	„
„	Crescent	=	„	Mullet.
„	Fleur de lys	=	„	Crescent.
„	Crescent (obverse only).			

These coins have a splash of brass inserted in them and are on thick flans.

A silver proof is known with the mint mark fleur de lys :—

No. 6. *Obverse.*—CAROLVS . D ⁝ G . MAG ⁝ BRI (BRIT.) Surmounting two sceptres in saltire placed perpendicularly, a double-arched crown.

Reverse.—FRAN . ET . HIB . REX. Above a double rose, a double arched crown. Weight, 18 grains. Pl. I, 20.

Three mint marks occur on both obverse and reverse, viz., fleur de lys, mullet, and crescent, whilst the following mint marks appear thus :—

Obverse.—	Mullet	=	*Reverse.*—	Crescent.
„	Fleur de lys	=	„	„
„	Crescent	=	„	Mullet.
„	Fleur de lys	=	„	„
„	Mullet	=	„	Fleur de lys.
„	Mullet (obverse only).			

Varieties occur reading FRAN ⁝ ET : HIBE ⁝ REX and FRA ⁝ ET : HIBER ⁝ REX.

There are two patterns in copper doubtless struck as being improvements upon the Richmond farthings ; they are as follows :—

FARTHING.

Obverse.—CAROLVS · D · G · MAG · BRITANN. A double-arched crown and sceptres within an inner circle.

Reverse.—FRAN · ET · HIBER · REX · B. A harp beneath a crown within an inner circle.

The "B" on the reverse is the initial of the engraver, Briot.

FARTHING.

Obverse.—CARO · D : G : MA : BRI : A crown with single arch.

Reverse.—FRA : ET . HIB : REX. Two sceptres in saltire.

The mint mark occurs on both sides. Weight, 15 grains. *Hoblyn Collection.*

Money of necessity was issued during the wars in Ireland, at five places, viz., Bandon, Cork, Kilkenny, Kinsale and Youghal. The coins struck at Kilkenny were issued in 1642 by "The Confederated Catholics," those at the remaining towns by the "Malignants" or adherents of the king, 1646–1647. The Proclamation of the "Confederated Catholics" at Kilkenny, November 15th, 1642, ordered "that there shall be 4,000 lbs. of red copper coyned to farthings and half-pence with the harp and the crown on one side and two scepters on the other."

KILKENNY, 1642.

HALFPENNY.

Obverse.—CAROLVS : D : G : MAG : BRI. Within a circle, two sceptres in saltire through a crown.

Reverse.—FRAN : ET : HIBER : REX. Within a circle, a crowned harp between C. R. Weight, 75 grains.

This coin also occurs reading FRA · ET · HIB · REX, omitting C. R. Pl. I, 21.

The mint mark, which is found on both sides, is a harp. These coins were very extensively fabricated and we frequently find pieces variously countermarked, in order to distinguish the genuine coins from the false. The following countermarks occur, K, a shield bearing a castle and K, and five castles, arranged in a circle. Pl. I, 22, 23.

FARTHING.

Obverse.—CARO : D : G : MAG : BRI : Two sceptres in saltire through a crown.
Reverse.—FRA · ET : HIB : REX. A crowned harp between C. R. No mint mark. Weight, 34 grains. Pl. I, 21A.

The majority of these coins are very ill-struck; and it is extremely difficult to meet with examples showing the complete design.[1]

A copper piece also exists which is quite plain except that KILKENNY is struck upon it within an oblong indent. *Hoblyn Cabinet.* Pl. I, 24.

BANDON.

COPPER COIN.

Obverse.—B. B, within a circle of small lozenges.
Reverse.—Three castles within a circle of small lozenges. Pl. I, 25.

This coin, which is struck upon an octagonal flan of copper, weighs 30 grains and is of rude execution. The letters B B doubtless represent Bandon Bridge, which was the original name of the town.

KINSALE.

FARTHING.

No. 1. *Obverse.*—K. S, enclosed within a dotted circle.
Reverse.—A chequered shield. Pl. I, 26.

This piece is struck on a rectangular flan, and weighs 35 grains.

No. 2. *Obverse.*—K. S, within a dotted circle.
Reverse.—A shield bearing fourteen pellets.

This coin is also struck upon a rectangular flan, and weighs 55 grains.

[1] In the collection of Mr. Hoblyn, however, are three specimens of the halfpenny (two octagonal and one circular), containing the whole design, with full margins, and in excellent preservation.

YOUGHAL, 1645–1646.

FARTHINGS.

No. 1. *Obverse.*—Y. T, beneath which is the date 1646, and above a bird; the whole within a double linear circle. Weight, 14 grains.

Reverse.—A galley, enclosed within a double linear circle. Pl. II, 2.

No. 2. *Obverse.*—Y. T, above which is a bird within a double linear circle. Weight, 15 grains.

Reverse.—A galley enclosed by a double dotted circle. Pl. II, 3.

No. 3. *Obverse.*—Y. T, beneath which is the date 1646. Weight, 54 grains.

Reverse.—A galley enclosed by double linear circles. Pl. II, 4.

No. 4. *Obverse.*—Y. T, beneath which is the date 1646, and above a branch. Weight, 23 grains.

Reverse.—A galley surrounded by a double linear circle. Pl. II, 1.

No. 5. *Obverse.*—Y. T, within a dotted circle. Weight, 9 grains.

Reverse.—A fish surrounded by a dotted circle. Pl. II, 6.

No. 6. *Obverse.*—Y. T, within two circles of pellets. Weight, 20 grains.

Reverse.—A galley on shield enclosed by a circle of triangular dots. Pl. II, 5.

No. 7. *Obverse.*—Y. T, in an elaborated circle enclosed by a circle of small triangles. Weight, 25 grains.

Reverse.—A shield bearing a galley, within a circle of triangles.

With the exception of the last all the preceding coins are of rough execution, and are, as is also the last, struck upon square brass flans.

TWOPENCE.

Obverse.— $\frac{\text{II}}{1645}$

Reverse.—A galley enclosed within a double circle.

This coin is struck upon a square brass flan.

THREEPENCE.

Obverse.— $\frac{\text{D}}{\text{III}}$, within a circle of dots.

Reverse.— $\frac{\text{CR}}{1646}$, enclosed by dotted circle.

This piece is struck in pewter.

UNCERTAIN COPPER COIN.

Obverse.—Within a circular indent C · R beneath a crown.

Reverse.—Blank.

This is counter-stamped upon a foreign copper coin which is too worn to decipher. I have classed it with the Youghal pieces on account of its resemblance to the coin described above. It is very similar to the silver money of necessity issued by James, Marquis of Ormonde, in 1643.

CORK, 1647.

FARTHINGS.

No. 1. *Obverse.*—CORK within a dotted circle.
Reverse.—A castle within a dotted circle.

This is struck on a square flan. Weight, 35 grains. Pl. II, 7.

No. 2. *Obverse.*—CORK within a beaded circle.
Reverse.—A ship issuing from between two towers.

This coin is struck upon a square flan. Weight, 41 grains.

No. 3. *Obverse.*—*CORKE* under the head of a lion, whilst beneath are two branches, all within a dotted circle.
Reverse.—Blank. Pl. II, 8.

This piece, which is struck in brass, weighs 57 grains.

HALFPENNY.

Obverse.—CORK, within a dotted, enclosing a linear circle.
Reverse.—A castle.

This coin, which is upon a square flan of copper, weighs 84 grains. *Fletcher Collection.*

We also find contemporary foreign coins overstruck CORK or CORKE: they were no doubt so countermarked for currency during the siege in 1647. Pl. II, 9, 10.

THE COMMONWEALTH. 1649–1660.

During the interregnum, coins would appear to have been issued at only two towns in Ireland, viz., Cork and Kerry; and they may be thus described :—

CORK.

FARTHINGS.

No. 1. *Obverse.*— ∵ A ∵ CORKE ∵ FARTHING surrounding a shield bearing the cross of St. George.
Reverse.— ∵ A ∵ CORKE ∵ FARTHING enclosing a shield bearing a harp. Weight, 66 grains. A variety occurs of smaller size.

No. 2. *Obverse.*— · A · CORKE · FARTHING · around an ornamental shield bearing the cross of St. George.
Reverse.— · A · CORKE · FARTHING · surrounding ornate shield bearing a harp. Mint mark on both sides, a mullet.

This coin, apparently a pattern, weighs 27 grains, and is in the *Fletcher Collection.*

No. 3. *Obverse.*—A CORKE FARTHIN enclosing the cross of St. George upon a shield.
Reverse.—A CORKE FARTHIN surrounding a shield bearing a harp. Weight, 14 grains.

No. 4. *Obverse.*—As No. 3.
Reverse.—As No. 1. *Fletcher Collection.*

The majority of these coins are very ill-struck; and not a few are found over-struck upon the double-tournois of Louis XIII.

KERRY.

FARTHING.

Obverse.—A shield bearing per pale, cross of St. George and harp.
Reverse.—KER.

This is struck upon a square flan of brass.

CHARLES II. 1660-1685.

The first coin to appear in this reign was a farthing issued under a patent granted December 14th, 1660, to Sir Thomas Armstrong. It is almost identical in design with the Harington farthings previously described, and from the occurrence of a capital R, on the jewelled band of the crown, on the obverse, it would appear that the dies from which it was struck were the work of the famous engraver,

Thomas Rawlins. Owing to the opposition of the Lord Lieutenant, James, Duke of Ormonde, the piece did not have a large circulation, and this possibly accounts for its comparative rarity.

FARTHING.

Obverse.—CAROLVS . II. D G. M. B. Within a dotted circle, two sceptres in saltire through a crown.

Reverse.—FRA. ET. HIB. REX. Mint mark, plume. Within a dotted circle, a harp surmounted by a crown. Weight, 30 grains. Pl. II, 11.

A silver proof exists of this coin, which is possibly unique. *Hoblyn Cabinet.*

ST. PATRICK'S MONEY.

During the year 1678, were issued, in all probability, the coins known as St. Patrick's money.

These coins, which are of copper, were struck in the city of Dublin, and for many years were a numismatic puzzle, as will be seen from the opinions expressed by various authorities in time past. Simon, in his *Irish Coins*, classes them among the Irish siege-money, and states that they were struck in Dublin in 1643, which was likewise the opinion of the Rev. H. Christmas, whilst Dr. Aquilla Smith and Evelyn considered them to have been issued within the period of 1660–1680. For the following reasons, the view which I myself hold is that they were struck in Dublin in 1678. These coins were specifically mentioned in a Tynwald Act of the Isle of Man, June 24th, 1679, in which Act it is declared that they shall cease to be current within the island on and after the first of January following. Likewise, in 1682, we find the State of New Jersey authorizing these pieces for currency, a large quantity having been imported, during the previous November, by one Mark Newby, when his party emigrated thither from Ireland. It would appear from the large number in circulation in 1679, that they must have been issued shortly before, and from the occurrence upon a St. Patrick's farthing, of the figure 8, beneath the kneeling figure of David, I would suggest the year 1678 as the most probable solution of the difficulty.

HALFPENNY.

Obverse.—FLOREAT REX. Mint mark, star. Figure of King David kneeling and playing the harp, above which is a crown.

Reverse.—ECCE GREX. Figure of St. Patrick standing, mitred, bearing a crozier in his left hand and a trefoil in his right hand, which he holds extended over a group of seven people, standing before him. The arms of Dublin, viz., a shield bearing three castles, are supported by two figures; edge engrailed. Weight, 142 grains. Pl. II, 14.

FARTHING.

Obverse.—As on the halfpenny, omitting the mint mark.

Reverse.—QVIESCAT. PLEBS. St. Patrick standing, holding in his left hand a metropolitan cross, whilst with his right hand he drives out the reptiles; behind and to the right is a church. Edge engrailed vertically. Weight, 77–105 grains. Pl. II, 12.

The halfpenny and farthing exist in copper, with a plug of brass impressed with a crown upon the obverse.

Many dies were evidently used, as the legends both on obverse and reverse differ in punctuation, as well as in the size and formation of the letters, as will be seen from the list below.

HALFPENCE.

FLORE AT REX ·
· · · FLORE AT REX ·
· FLOREAT · · ✷ · · REX .
· · FLOREAT · · ✷ · · REX
· · FLOREAT · ✷ · : REX .

· ECCE GREX 2 dies.
· ECCE · GREX 2 dies.
ECCE : GREX 1 die.
: ECCE · GREX 1 die.

FARTHINGS.

FLOREAT : REX 1 die.
FLOREAT REX : 3 dies.
FLOREAT : REX : 13 dies.
FLOREAT · : REX : 1 die.
FLOREAT : REX : · 3 dies.
FLOREAT ✷ REX ✷ ✷ ✷ ✷ 1 die.
QVIESCAT PLEBS 9 dies.
QVIESCAT PLEBS . 2 dies.

QVIESCAT · PLEBS . 1 die.
QVIESCAT · PLEBS . 1 die.
QVIESCAT : PLEBS 2 dies.
QVIESCAT PLEBS : 3 dies.
QVIESCAT : PLEBS : 1 die.
QVIESCAT PLEBS : · 2 dies.
QVIESCAT : PLEBS : · 1 die.
QVIESCAT ✷ PLEBS ✷ 1 die.

There exist proofs in silver both of the farthing and halfpenny, that of the halfpenny being of extreme rarity ; an example of the latter coin, much worn, was in the cabinet of Dr. Aquilla Smith, its weight being 176·5 grains.

The silver proof of the farthing, though less rare, is seldom met with, and weighs 114 grains, whilst a proof of this piece is also known in lead.

I have met with an ill-executed contemporary forgery of the farthing in copper, in which the plug of brass on the obverse is wanting. *Nelson Collection.* An example of a farthing struck in silver is in the *Caldecott Collection*, on which the head of St. Patrick occurs surrounded by a nimbus ; this piece is unique. Pl. II, 13.

In the year 1679, there was issued the following piece, which is now very rare :—

HALFPENNY.

Obverse.—LONG . LIVE . THE . KING. A harp surmounted by a crown.
Reverse.—THE DVBLIN. HALFPENNIE. A shield bearing the arms of Dublin, viz., three castles (two and one), above which is the date, 1679, mint mark a cross. Weight, 168 grains. Pl. II, 16.

This coin was probably coined by the Dublin Corporation. A specimen is in the *Watters Cabinet.*

In the next year, 1680, a patent was granted to Sir Thomas Armstrong and Col. George Legg, for the coinage of halfpence for Ireland, each of which was to weigh 107 grains, and for such right of coinage the patentees were to pay to the crown the annual sum of £16 13*s.* 4*d.* in equal halves, on June 24th and December 25th, being liable to receive back their own coin at the rate of 21*s.* to the £1.

HALFPENNY.

Obverse.—CAROLVS . II . DEI . GRATIA. Laureated and draped bust of the King to right.
Reverse.—MAG . BR . FRA . ET . HIB . REX. A harp surmounted by a crown, on either side of which is the date 16–80. Edge engrailed. Weight, 110 grains. Pl. II, 17.

The following dates are found : 1680 large letters, 1681 large and

small letters, 1682, 1683, 1684, all with small lettering. Pl. II, 18. The bust on the pieces with small letters differs from the earlier coins; and the date 1684 is very rare. Silver proofs occur of 1680 and 1681, the latter with small lettering.

In or about the year 1680 was struck the following coin, which appears to be a pattern for a halfpenny; it is struck in copper, the design being as follows:—

Obverse.—CAROLVS . II . DEI . GRATIA. C R in double monogram beneath a crown.

Reverse.— . MAG . BR . FRA . ET . HIB . REX. A harp beneath a crown. Weight, 82 grains. Pl. II, 15.

This piece is also found struck in pewter, and in either metal is of extreme rarity.

JAMES II. 1685–1688.

In the year 1685 we find the unexpired patent of Charles II. to Sir Thomas Armstrong, renewed on the same terms by James II. in favour of Sir John Knox.

HALFPENNY.

Obverse.—IACOBVS . II . DEI . GRATIA . Laureated and draped bust of the king to left.

Reverse.—MAG . BR . FRA . ET . HIB . REX. A harp, above which is a crown dividing the date 1685. Weight, 125 grains. Pl. II, 19.

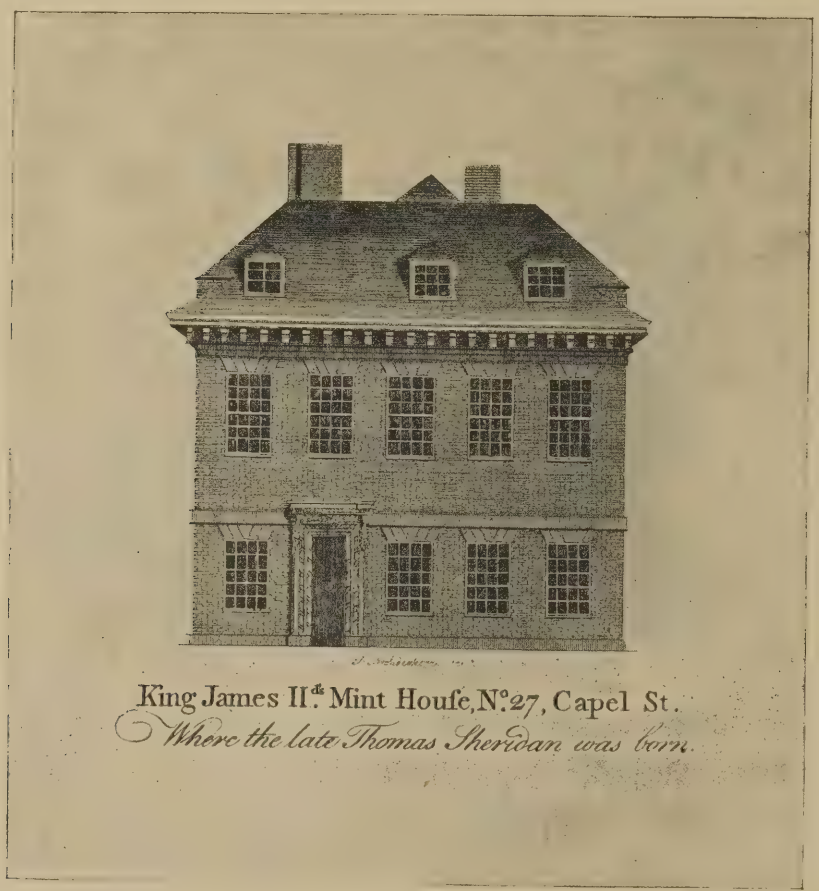
The following dates occur: 1685, 1686, 1687 and 1688, whilst of 1685 there is a proof in pewter. The date 1687 is of extreme rarity.

MONEY OF NECESSITY, 1689–1691, INCLUDING THE "GUN-MONEY."

James II. having abdicated the English throne, retired to France in December, 1688; but in the following year, sailing for Ireland, he landed at Kinsale, March 12th, 1688,[1] and made his entry into Dublin on March 24th. On the twenty-fifth James raised, by

[1] To correspond with the coinage the "*old style*" is here followed.

proclamation, the value of English and foreign gold and silver coins, English gold being enhanced 20 per cent., and English silver 8½ per cent. In the May following, the King, by a separate order, authorized the French three-and-a-half sous-piece, the original value of which was one penny and three-fifths, to be current at the rate of three pence halfpenny. Apparently, this method of providing supplies failed to



King James II.ds Mint Houſe, N.o 27, Capel St.
Where the late Thomas Sheridan was born.

relieve the King's pressing necessities, since, on June the 18th, 1689, we find James issuing regal tokens of the value of sixpence, struck in brass and bearing the value and date of manufacture. The king for his own purposes set aside the patent granted by him to Sir John Knox in 1685, and, seizing upon his coining apparatus, established two mints, the one at 27, Capel Street, Dublin, the other at the Deanery, Limerick.

At the Dublin mint there were two presses at work called the "James" and the "Duchess" respectively. Various officers were appointed, namely, six commissioners, divided into first and second classes, two secretaries, one for each class, four comptrollers, two wardens, one treasurer, four tellers, four feeders, eight labourers at the fly, two porters, a messenger, two door keepers, and a storekeeper. The presses were continually at work day and night, the staff being double, and each party working twelve hours at a time. At Dublin, the commissioners were John Trinder, Chief Commissioner, Francis Rice, William Brinfield, Edward Fox, Thomas Goddard and William Talbot, the secretaries, John Tringer and Samuel Clark, the treasurer, Hewlet, and the Comptrollers, Holland, Dempsey, Osborn and Morgan; whilst at Limerick, Walter Plunket was the commissioner. It would appear that within a very short time the supply of metal for this coinage began to fail, since we find, in the following month, the commissioners of the mint engaged in active correspondence with their representatives throughout the country, respecting the purchase of metal, for the purposes of this issue.

In July were struck shillings and half-crowns of large size, the proclamation authorizing their issue having appeared during the previous month, and at the same time we find the commissioners authorized, as an inducement to the people to exchange their gold and silver for tokens of brass, to allow twenty shillings and sixpence in gun-money for every twenty shillings so tendered.

In the following March, 1689, pewter coins of the value of pence and halfpence were authorized for currency, which pieces we likewise find dated 1690. On April 21st, 1690, crown pieces struck in white metal were declared to be legal tender, but it would appear, from the rarity of these pieces, that but few, if any, can have found their way into circulation, though some five thousand were discovered in the mint at Dublin on the capture of that city in July, 1690. There are, however, specimens which show signs of considerable wear.

It is evident that at this time the amount of metal for the coinage of the gun-money pieces must have been greatly reduced, since we find that shillings and half-crowns were now issued of smaller size and

weight, and two months later, June, 1690, the large half-crowns, *i.e.* the pieces issued prior to May, 1690, were recalled and subsequently reissued as crowns, "surfrappé." The new design was stamped on the coins so recalled, and nearly all the examples show traces of their previous state. The material from which these gun-money coins were struck was largely composed of old church bells, kitchen utensils and disused cannon, whence their name. They were now, however, to become more harmful to friend than to foe, and they forcibly recall to mind the conversion of swords into ploughshares. Gun-metal was at this period (1689–90) worth from three pence to four pence per lb. but now by the necessities of the time, was forced into circulation at a greatly enhanced value. The principal losers by this nominal coinage were the Monarch's unfortunate adherents, who upon the reduction in value under the Acts of William and Mary, found themselves suddenly fined in proportion to their holdings; for by the first Act the crown and halfcrown were reduced in value to a penny each, the small halfcrown to three farthings, the large shilling to a halfpenny, whilst the small shilling and sixpence were only estimated at a farthing apiece. At the same time the pewter penny and halfpenny were reduced to a moiety of their original value.

That the quantity of gun-metal pieces struck was enormous will be apparent from the subjoined table:—

	lbs.	ozs.	were made into	£	*s.*	*d.*
Sixpences ...	14,080	3		49,042	6	6
Large shillings	62,422	2·5		245,879	17	0
„ halfcrowns	111,308	15		443,498	10	0
Small shillings...	8,914	11·75		41,800	0	0
„ halfcrowns	21,267	·75		127,200	0	0
Total ...	216,993	13		£907,420	13	6

The intrinsic value of the metal at 4*d.* a pound amounted to £3,616 5*s.* 6*d.* only, but it was nevertheless declared current at the sum of £907,420 13*s.* 6*d.* To this we must also add the increased value of the large halfcrowns which were reissued as crowns, say £440,000 6*s.* 6*d.*, making in all £1,347,421. Practically the whole of

this sum must have found its way into currency, since there remained in the mint only the following pieces when it fell into the hands of the adherents of William and Mary :—

		£	s.	d.	Value each at	£	s.	d.
6000	gun-money sixpences ...	150	0	0	¼*d.*	6	5	0
9043	„ shillings, large	452	3	0	½*d.*	18	16	9
126503	„ halfcrowns „ ...	15,812	17	6	1*d.*	527	1	11
4757	„ shillings, small	237	17	0	¼*d.*	4	19	1¼
2489	„ halfcrowns „ ...	311	2	6	¾*d.*	7	15	6
17292	„ crowns... ...	4,323	0	0	1*d.*	72	1	0
4808	tin crowns...	1,202	0	0	¼*d.*	5	0	2
		£22,489	0	0		£641	19	5¼

Finally, in the year 1691, under the Act of William and Mary, all the above coins ceased to be current.

The dies for all the "money of necessity" of this monarch were engraved by Roettier, one of a family of medalists, which, for a period of some sixty years, was intimately associated with the Stuart cause. The design of all these coins is excellent, and the treatment of the king's portrait leaves little to be desired, showing at the same time a wealth of detail and a broadness of conception and execution, such as one could only expect from an artist of the eminence of Roettier.

All the pieces of later date than the month of July, 1690, at which time Dublin fell into the hands of the Conqueror of the Boyne, were issued from the mint at Limerick. This mint continued to issue gun-money until October, 1690, which was the last month of their striking. In the following year, pieces in brass of the value of halfpence and farthings were struck here, and are always found over-struck upon large and small gun-money shillings respectively, and were doubtless used by the inhabitants of the town, during the siege. Limerick was the last city to hold out for James, only yielding after a prolonged and gallant resistance, October 3rd, 1691. The garrison were allowed to march out with all the honours of war, maintaining to the last that brave demeanour which had made them as much respected by friend as feared by foe, after which they elected to enter the service of Louis XIV.

Such a debasement of a country's coinage as we have seen above, must ever be regarded as a sign of national weakness; also, from the sense of insecurity so engendered, it must inevitably bring disaster in its train, and such a fate overtook the cause of James alike in Ireland and in England.

It was doubtless the intention of King James to redeem his gun-money coins, month by month, as opportunity permitted. Circumstances, however, decreed otherwise, as after the battle of the Boyne he departed for France, and was compelled to leave his adherents to their fate.

Very unfavourably must the conduct of this monarch in respect to his currency, compare with that of his heroic father, who, even in the hour of his direst need, maintained the standard of purity of his coinage, a circumstance which must for all time be recorded to his honour.

SIXPENCE.

Obverse.—IACOBVS. II. DEI. GRATIA. Laureated and draped bust of the King to left.

Reverse.—MAG. BR. FRA ET. HIB. REX. 1689. Two sceptres in saltire though a crown, above which is VI., beneath is the month of issue and on either side *I R*. Edge grained. Weight, 45–65 grains. Pl. III, 1.

This coin occurs with monthly dates from June, 1689, to June, 1690,[1] inclusive, whilst proofs occur in gold of February, and in silver of July, August, September, January and February. The subjoined is a list of varieties of lettering, the figures in parentheses being the number of variations in the dies; they total forty-nine.

1689.—*June* (2), *June.*, *Ivne*, *July* (5), *July.*, *Aug* (4) one reads FR. *Aug.*, *Aug*:, *Aug*^{t}, *Sep*, *Sep*^{r}, *Sep*^{r}., *Sep*^{r}:, *7 ber*, Pl. III, 2, *Oct*: *Nov*, *Nov.*, *Nov*:, *Dec.* (2), *Dec*: (2), *Jan* (2), *Jan.* (2), *Jan*: (3), *Feb* (4), *Mar.*

1690.—*Mar*:, *Apr*, *Apr*:, *May*, *May*:, *June*:, *Oct*:,

[1] In these dates it must be remembered that the old style was then in vogue, when the years commenced on the 25th March.

SHILLING, Large.

Obverse.—IACOBVS. II. DEI GRATIA. Laureated head of the King to left.

Reverse.—MAG. BR. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. 1689. Two sceptres in saltire through a crown, above which is XII., beneath is the month of issue and on either side *I R*. Edge grained. Weight 63–121 grains. Pl. III, 3.

Coins of the months from July, 1689, to April, 1690, inclusive, are found, whilst proofs occur in gold of March and April, 1690, and in silver of July, August, September, January, February and March, 1689, and of March and April, 1690. The following is a list of eighty varieties.[1]

1689.—*July* (3), one has no stops on the *obverse*, *July.* (2), *Aug* (2), *Aug.*, *Aug* :, *Aug*^{t} (2), *Aug*^{t} : (3). *Sep*^{r} (4), *Sep*^{r}., *Sep*^{r} :, *Sept.*, *Sept*^{r}. *Oct*, *Oct.*, *Oct* : (3), OCT, OCT. (2), one has no stops on the *obverse*. OCT^{R}., OCT^{r}, OCT, 8 BER, 8 BE^{r}., 8 BR, 8 *br*. *Nov*, *Nov.*, *Nov* : (3), *Nov*, *Nov*^{r} :, 9, 9^{r} (3), one has a castle under the bust. Pl. III, 4. *Dec*, *Dec.*, *Dec* : (3), *Dec*^{r}., 10^{r} (2). *Jan* (2), *Jan* : (4), one has the *a* reversed *Jon* : of which coin there is a silver proof. *Feb* (2), *Feb.*, *Feb* : (3). *Mar*, *Mar.*, *Mar* :

1690.—*Mar*, *Mar.*, *Mar* : (2), *Apr.*, *Apr* : (3).

HALFCROWN, Large.

Obverse.—IACOBVS . II . DEI . GRATIA. Laureated and draped bust of the King to left.

Reverse.—MAG. BR. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. 1689. Two sceptres in saltire through a crown, above which is XXX, beneath is the month of issue, and on either side *I R*. Edge milled with a leaf pattern. Weight 200–250 grains. Pl. III, 5.

This issue bears monthly dates from July, 1689, to May, 1690 inclusive. In all some sixty-five varieties exist, whilst proofs in gold occur of April, 1690, and in silver of August, September, November, January, February and March, 1689, and of March and April, 1690.[1]

[1] For explanation of the figures in brackets see list on page 24.

1689.—*July* (3), one has small *I R*, *Aug*, *Aug* : (2), *Aug*^{t} :, crown and sceptres reversed. Pl. III, 6. *Aug*^{t}, *Aug*^{t} :, *Sep*^{r} (4), *Sep*^{r} : (3), *Sep*^{t} :, *Septr.*, *Oct* :, *Oct*^{r}., OCT, OCT., OCT^{R}., 8^{r}, 8 BER. Pl. III, 7. *Nov.*, *Nov* : (3), *Nov*^{r}., *Dec.* (-), *Dec* : (2), *Dec*^{r}., 10^{r}., *Jan*, *Jan* : (3). *Mar*, *Mar.*, *Mar* :, *Mar* :

1690.—*Mar* : (2), *Mar* : *Apr.*, *Apr* : (4), *Apr.*, *Apr* : (3). *May*, *May* : (3). Pl. III, 8.

SHILLING, Small.

Obverse.—IACOBVS. II. DEI. GRATIA. Laureated head of the King to left.

Reverse.—MAG. BR. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. 1690. Two sceptres in saltire through a crown, above which is XII., beneath is the month of issue, and on either side *I R*. Edge grained. Weight, 66–104 grains. Pl. III, 10.

Of this issue we find nineteen varieties, and gold and silver proofs occur dated May and June, 1690.[1]

1690.—*Apr* (2), one has cinquefoils on the *obverse*. Pl. III, 9. *May* (5), *May*. (3), one reads GRATA, *May*, MAY with cinquefoils on the *obverse*. *June* (2), *June*. (2) *July*, *Aug*^{t}., *Sep* :.

HALFCROWN, Small.

Obverse.—IACOBVS. II. DEI. GRATIA. Laureated head of the King to left.

Reverse.—MAG. BR. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. 1690. Two sceptres in saltire through a crown, above which is XXX, beneath is the month of issue, and on either side *I R*. Edge milled with a leaf pattern. Weight, 105–177 grains. Pl. III, 11.

Twenty-four varieties exist of the above, whilst there are proofs, in gold and silver, of the month of May.[1]

1690.—*Apr* : *May* (5), *May*. (7), *May* (2). Pl. III, 12. One has cinquefoils on the *reverse*. *June*, *June*., *Jnue*., *Jun*, *July* (2), *Aug* :, *Sep*^{t} :, *Oct* : Pl. III, 13

[1] For explanation of the figures in brackets see p. 24.

CROWN.

Obverse.—IAC. II. DEI. GRA. MAG. BRI. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. Equestrian figure of King to left, holding drawn sword perpendicularly. A large sash floats from the King's waist, whilst the horse's tail is curved.

Reverse.—CHRIS | TO. VICT | ORE. TRI | VMPHO. Arms of England, Scotland, France and Ireland arranged cruciformly around a crown ANO DOM J6 90 in the angles. Edge milled with a leaf pattern. Weight, 243 grains. Pl. III, 14.

Proofs also occur in gold, silver and tin.

A variety reads RIX on the *obverse*, and CHRIS | TO. VICTO | RE. TRI | VMPHO on the *reverse*.

PATTERN CROWN.

Obverse.—IAC. II. DEI. GRA. MAG. BRI. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. Equestrian figure of King to left, holding a drawn sword slantwise, small sash floating on the wind. The horse's tail is straight, the letters of the legend are larger than on the previous coin.

Reverse.—CHRIS | TO. VICT | ORE. TRI | VMPHO. Arms of England, Scotland, France and Ireland arranged cruciformly around a crown, ANO DOM J6 90 in the angles. Edge milled with a leaf pattern. Weight, 201 grains. *Nelson Collection.* Pl. III, 15.

PROOFS.

	VI.	XII.	XXX.	Crown.
June				
July	Æ	Æ		
August	Æ	Æ	Æ	
September ...	Æ	Æ	Æ	
October				
November ...			Æ	
December ...				
January	Æ	Æ	Æ	
February	Æ . Æ	Æ	Æ	
March		Æ	Æ	
1690.				
March		Æ . Æ	Æ	

	VI.	XII.	XXX.	Crown.
April		A . Æ	A . Æ	
May				
		Small.		
April				A . Æ . Sn. { Plain edge, and
May		A . Æ	A . Æ	and Æ { lettered edge.
June		A . Æ	A . Æ	
July				
August				
September ...				
October				

Table Showing the Number of Dies in Use.

Month.	Sixpence.	Large XII.	Large XXX.	Small XII.	Small XXX.	Total.
1689—June ...	4	...	...	...	...	4
July ...	6	5	3	...	...	14
August ...	7	11	6	...	...	24
September	4	8	9	...	...	21
7 ber ...	1	...	...	...	...	1
October ...	1	11	5	...	...	17
8 ber ...	...	4	2	...	...	6
November...	3	7	5	...	...	15
9	...	3	...	...	...	3
9^{r} with castle	...	1	...	...	...	1
December...	4	6	5	...	...	15
10^{r}... ...	...	2	1	...	...	3
January ...	7	6	4	...	...	17
February ...	4	6	5	...	...	15
March ...	1	2	4	...	...	7
1690—March ...	1	4	3	...	...	8
April ...	2	4	9	2	1	18
May ...	2	...	4	10	14	30
June ...	1	...	...	4	4	9
July ...	...	...	...	1	2	3
August ...	...	...	...	1	1	2
September	...	...	...	1	1	2
October ...	1	...	...	...	1	2
	49	80	65	19	24	237

CROWN.

White Metal, with plug of Prince's Metal.

Obverse.—IAC. II DEI. GRA. MAG. BRI. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. Equestrian figure of the King riding to the left, with drawn sword, scarf floating behind.

Reverse.—CHRIS | TO. VICTO | RE. TRI | VMPHO. Arms of England, Ireland, France and Scotland arranged cruciformly, a crown in the centre. In the upper angles ANO DOM ; in the lower angles 16 90. Edge inscribed MELIORIS · TESSERA · FATI · ANNO · REGNI · SEXTO · Weight, 283 grains. Pl. IV, 7.

Proofs of this crown exist in gold and silver with inscribed edge, in silver and tin with plain edge, also in white metal with inscribed edge.

PATTERN CROWN.

Silver.

Obverse and *reverse* somewhat similar to the preceding coin but upon the *reverse* it reads TRIUMPHO. It occurs in silver and copper with plain edge, also in silver inscribed MLIORIS[1] · TESSERA · FATI · with a pellet between two foliate ornaments at the end of the legend. Pl. IV, 8.

A specimen in copper occurs in the Hoblyn collection with plain edge.

PATTERN CROWN.

Pewter with plugs of Prince's Metal.

Obverse.—IACOBVS. II. DEI. GRATIA. Equestrian figure of the King proceeding to the left carrying a drawn sword, with floating scarf behind.

Reverse.—1689. MAG. BR. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. A crown enclosed by the legend.

This coin is plugged with Prince's metal in two places on the obverse and one on the reverse. That in the British Museum, weighing 346 grains, is from the *Barré Charles Roberts cabinet*, whilst another was recently discovered by Mr. W. T. Ready. Pl. IV, 6.

[1] *sic*, the E being omitted.

GROAT.

Mixed Metal. (Pewter.)

Obverse.—IACOBVS. II. DEI. GRATIA. Draped and laureated bust of the King to the left, from the die of the gun-money sixpence.

Reverse.—MAG. BR. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. 1689. A crowned harp, on either side of which is II. Edge grained. Weight, 52 grains. Of extreme rarity. *Hoblyn Cabinet.* Pl. IV, 5.

PENNY.

Pewter.

Obverse.—IACOBVS. II. DEI. GRATIA. Laureated bust of the King to left as on the large gun-money shilling.

Reverse.—MAG. BR. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. 1689. A harp beneath a crown. Edge grained. Weight, 130 grains. Probably unique.

This piece is also dated 1690. Pl. IV, 3.

HALFPENNY.

Pewter.

Obverse.—IACOBVS. II. DEI. GRATIA. Small laureated head of the King with short hair to left.

Reverse.—MAG. BR. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. 1689, around a crowned harp. Edge grained. Weight, 72 grains. Very rare.

This coin is also found dated 1690. A silver proof occurs of the year 1690, some specimens of which are found struck over Louis d'argents. Pl. IV, 1.

PENNY.

Pewter.

Obverse.—IACOBVS. II. DEI. GRATIA. Small laureated head of the King with short hair to left, I^{D} behind the head.

Reverse.—MAG. BR. FRA. ET. HIB. REX., enclosing a harp beneath a crown, the date is divided by the foot of the harp, 16–90. Edge grained. Weight, 95 grains. Pl. IV, 4.

HALFPENNIES.

Pewter.

Obverse.—IACOBVS. II. DEI. GRATIA., surrounding laureated head of the King with short hair to left, beneath which is a floral ornament.

Reverse.—MAG. BR. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. 1690, around a harp, beneath a crown which divides the date. Edge grained. Weight, 72 grains. Pl. IV, 2.

Obverse.—IACOBVS. II. DEI. GRATIA., surrounding equestrian figure of the King.

Reverse.—MAG. BR. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. 1689. A crown surmounting two sceptres in saltire, above a harp, to the left of which is HALF, to the right, PENY. Edge grained.

This piece is plugged with Prince's metal. It is recorded, but is not now known to exist.

Brass.

Obverse.—IACOBVS. II. DEI. GRATIA. Laureated and draped bust of the King to left.

Reverse.—HIBERNIA. 169J. Seated figure of Hibernia facing to the left and in her right hand a trefoil. Edge grained. Weight, 102 grains.

FARTHING.

Brass.

Obverse and *Reverse* similar to the previous coin. On some, however, the N on the *Reverse* is not inverted. Edge grained. Weight, 82 grains. Pl. III, 16.

Both the last two described coins were re-struck respectively over the large and small shillings, and were minted at Limerick for currency during the siege of that place.

WILLIAM AND MARY, 1689–1694.

As previously mentioned one of the early Acts of this reign was the reduction in value of the various gun-money coins of James II.

and very shortly afterwards these coins were demonetized. The only pieces issued in Ireland during the reign of these monarchs were halfpence, which may be thus described :—

HALFPENNY.

Copper.

Obverse.—GVLIELMVS. ET. MARIA. DEI. GRATIA. Jugate heads of the King and Queen, that only of the King is laureated, the necks undraped.

Reverse.—MAG. BR. FR. ET. HIB. REX. ET. REGINA., surrounding the harp surmounted by a crown dividing the date thus J6–92. Edge grained. Weight, 125 grains. Pl. II, 20.

This coin, of which no proofs exist, is found dated 1692, 1693, and 1694. It has been asserted that the dates 1690 and 1691 exist ; but this is extremely doubtful. The issue appears to have been frequently *cast* and not struck, but examples occur which seem to be struck on *cast flans*.

WILLIAM III. 1694–1702.

The coins of William III. are almost identical with those of the preceding reign, save that the portrait of Mary is omitted.

The issue consists of halfpence, of which several varieties occur.

HALFPENNIES.

Copper.

No. 1. *Obverse.*—GVLIELMVS. III. DEI. GRA. Laureated bust of the King in armour to left.

Reverse.—MAG. BR. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. J695. A harp, above which is a crown dividing the date J6–95[1]. Edge grained. Weight, 103 grains. Pl. II, 22.

This coin is also found dated 1696 ; and of this year a proof occurs in silver (sometimes gilt) reading on the *reverse* MAG. BRI. for MAG. BR. which is also known in copper.

[1] This date is questioned.

No. 2. *Obverse* and *Reverse* somewhat similar to No. 1, but reading GULIELMVS. III. DEI. GRATIA and the King's bust is undraped, date 1696. Edge grained. Weight, 105 grains. Pl. II, 21.

ANNE. 1702–1714.

During the reign of this Queen no coins for Ireland were struck.

GEORGE I. 1714-1727.

The Coinage of William Wood.

William Wood was born July 31st, 1671, and resided at the Deanery, Wolverhampton, during the period 1692–1713. Previous to his venture in the sphere of coinage he must have been a person of good financial status, as we are told that he was the proprietor of iron and copper mines in the west of England, and leased mining rights in thirty-nine counties in England and Wales.

In 1722 the King's mistress, the Duchess of Kendal, received from Lord Sunderland a patent for the right of coining copper money for Ireland, which she sold to Wood for £10,000. The charter, which was from George I. to William Wood, was dated June the 16th, 1722, and presented the following points. It was for the term of fourteen years, and conferred the privilege of coining halfpence and farthings for Ireland, the total weight of which was not to exceed three hundred and sixty tons, and thirty pence were to be coined from one pound avoirdupois. One hundred tons were to be coined during the first year, and twenty tons during each of the succeeding years. Wood was to pay an annual rent of £800 to the King, and £200 to the clerk-comptroller. The patent was passed by the English Parliament on July 22nd, 1722, without reference to the Lord Lieutenant or to the Irish Privy Council.

The value of 360 tons of copper at this time was £43,680, and when coined at the rate of thirty pence to the pound, it amounted to the sum of £108,000.

The then cost of coining 360 tons of copper was as follows:—

	£
Value of 360 tons of copper at 13*d.* per lb. ...	43,680
Making into bars at 5*d.* per lb.	16,800
Cost of striking coins at 4*d.* per lb.	13,940
Rent to the Crown	14,000
Cost of patent	10,000
Total	£98,420

At the English Royal mint in 1722 one pound of copper was struck into forty-six *halfpence*, and thus 360 tons would produce about £77,280, i.e., £30,720 less than was provided by the patent for the coinage for Ireland.

The table beneath gives the weights of specimens taken from parcels forwarded to Ireland for distribution, a number being selected from each parcel and after being weighed were divided into groups.

TABLE SHOWING TEST WEIGHTS.

The different lots.	Weight of Halfpenny.	Number in 1 lb.	Current value of 1 lb. in 1722.		
			Pence.	Half-Pence.	Dec.
	Grs.				
First sort	120	58·33	29	—	·33
Second sort	111	63·06	31	1	·06
Third sort	103	67·96	33	1	·96
Fourth sort	96	72·91	36	—	·91
The average	107·5	65·11	32	1	·11

TABLE SHOWING THE INTRINSIC AND CURRENT VALUES.

	Quantity coined.	Cost coined.	Current value.	Loss to Public.
	tons.	£	£ s.	£ s.
If as patent provided ...	360	74,420	108,000 0	33,580 0
If first sort coined	„	„	97,994 8	23,574 8
If second sort coined ...	„	„	105,940 16	31,520 16
If third sort coined	„	„	114,172 16	39,752 16
If fourth sort coined	„	„	122,488 16	48,068 16
If average coined	360	74,420	110,149 4	35,729 4

It would appear that Wood, realizing the small sum in proportion to his outlay to be earned by strictly adhering to the terms of the patent, reduced the weight of the coins, hoping by this means to increase the profits of the undertaking.

The coining of these pieces began in January, 1722–23, the mint being in Phœnix Street, Brown's Gardens, Seven Dials, London. They were from here carried to Bristol by waggon, where they were shipped to various Irish ports, Dublin being the main centre of their distribution.

A memorial of William Wood appears in the Treasury Papers praying for a licence to coin "copper money for Ireland at the city of Bristol," and a minute remains dated August 3rd, 1722, appointing Sir Isaac Newton comptroller of the coinage. The Treasury gave Wood power to coin a certain quantity of copper money at Bristol and the treasury warrant authorising Wood to establish his office for coining at or near Bristol exists of the date August 31st, 1723.

The dies were engraved by the following artists :—Lammas, Harold and Standbroke, who were probably also the engravers of Wood's American issues.

Coins of the years 1722 and 1723 were issued in Ireland to the amount of £14,566, of which £1,086 was represented by farthings. The coins of 1722, however, did not attain any large circulation and were probably issued as patterns.

Wood's coinage was unpopular, and this may have been owing to the secrecy surrounding the issue. The Irish nation never having been consulted and its interests but little regarded, we are not surprised to find that both Irish Houses of Parliament petitioned the King upon this matter, and in this they were joined, September 13th, 1723, by the Lords Justices, the Council, and the Grand Juries of the city and county of Dublin.

Wood having been described in the press "as guilty of a most notorious fraud in his coinage," unwisely permitted himself to be drawn into a reply, which appeared on October 8th, 1723, in *The Flying Post*, and in which he said "that he would cram his brass down their throats in spite of them."

Subsequently to this, there was printed the first of a series of seven letters, the writer being the famous Dr. Swift, Dean of St. Patrick's, and as they were signed M. B. Drapier, were known as Drapier's Letters. The first letter was published in April, 1724, and was succeeded at short intervals by the others. The writer, regardless of veracity and for political reasons, entirely misrepresented the facts of the case, and by this means the prospect of a successful future for the coinage was fatally prejudiced. In 1724, Wood reduced the issue to £40,000 and limited the tender to fivepence-halfpenny, but in the following year, 1725, he resigned the patent in return for a pension of £3,000 per annum for eight years upon the establishment of Ireland.

The following extract from a letter written by Sir Robert Walpole to Lord Townsend records this commutation :—

"(London, October 12–21, 1725.)

"His majesty, before he left England, signed a warrant for granting a pension of 3,000*l.* per annum, on the establishment of Ireland, to Thomas Uvedale, esq. which was to him in trust for Mr. Wood for the surrender of his patent. That warrant is still in my hands, and is not to be given out till all difficulties in the parliament of Ireland are over. Mr. Wood has now been with

me, to desire that the pension of 3,000*l.* per annum to Mr. Uvedale, may be turned into three pensions of 1,000*l.* per annum, for the same number of years, which he desires, for the greater conveniency of disposing of it to the best advantage, finding it very difficult, and almost impracticable to part with the whole in one sum, which being divided into three parts, may be easily had. I therefore send your lordship three warrants of 1,000*l.* per annum, each for eight years, which I desire your lordship will present to his majesty to be signed; and upon the return of them, I will cancel the former warrants, and keep these in my custody, until it shall be proper to give them out."

Of April 10th, 1724, there is a letter from the Treasury to Sir Isaac Newton directing him to send a competent person to Bristol to assay the fineness of Wood's halfpence.

Notwithstanding the outcry raised against this issue, the report of Sir Isaac Newton, the Master of the Royal Mint, proves these coins to have been very admirable pieces and superior to any copper money previously coined for use in Ireland, their only fault being the difference in weight between the various examples. The following announcement will serve to show the feeling in Ireland at this time in regard to these pieces.

ADVERTISEMENT.

"Whereas I, Thomas Handy, of Meath Street, Dublin, did receive by the last packet from a person in London, to whom I am an entire stranger, bills of lading for eleven casks of Wood's halfpence, shipped at Bristol, and consigned to me by the said person on his own proper account, of which I had not the least notice until I received the said Bills of lading.

"Now I, the said Thomas Handy, being highly sensible of the duty and regard which every honest man owes to his country and to his fellow-subjects, do hereby declare, that I will not be concerned, directly or indirectly, in entering, landing, importing, receiving, or uttering any of the said Wood's halfpence, for that I am fully convinced, as well from the addresses of both houses of parliament as otherwise, that the importing and uttering the said halfpence will be destructive to this nation, and prejudicial to his Majesty's revenue.

"And of this my resolution I gave notice by letter to the person who sent me the bills of lading, the very day I received them, and have sent back the said bills to him,

Tho. Handy.

"Dublin, 29th August, 1724."

The *London Post* for January 14th, 1723, records the following—

"William Wood, of Wolverhampton, Esq., having a patent for fourteen years for coining farthings and halfpence for Ireland, and halfpence, pence and twopences for all His Majesty's dominions in America, hath erected a building in Phœnix Street, Brown's Gardens, near the Seven Dials, for the American coinage, and another in the city of Bristol for Irish coinage."

Wood no doubt selected Bristol as his place of mintage because at that period the city was the centre of the English brass trade, and possessed the largest copper smelting works in the kingdom.

The same journal, *The London Post*, January 18th, 1723, gives the further information, which also appears in the *St. James's Journal* for January 19th:—"Wood began his coinage for Ireland on Monday last near the Seven Dials."

William Wood died in London, August 2nd, 1730, and thus only enjoyed his Irish pension for five years. His wife was Mary Molyneaux, of Witton Hall, Staffordshire.

In describing the coins struck by William Wood I have endeavoured to place them in their chronological sequence.

HALFPENNY, 1722.

No. 1 Pattern.

Obverse.—GEORGIVS. D : G : REX. Laureated head of the King to right, neck disproportionately long.

Reverse.— · HIBERNIÆ. Figure of Hibernia seated looking to right at a mass of rock, and holding in front a harp, in exergue 1722. Weight, 121 grains. Pl. IV, 9.

It is probable that the engraver of the dies for this coin also engraved the dies for the following and for the pattern farthings and halfpence of 1724.

FARTHING, 1722.

No. 2 Pattern.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS . D : G : REX. Laureated head of the King to right.

Reverse.— · HIBERNIA. 1722. Hibernia seated to left, holding and playing a harp before her. Weight, 60 grains. Pl. IV, 10.

HALFPENNY, 1722.

No. 3 Pattern.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS. DEI. GRATIA. REX. Laureated head of the King to right.

Reverse.—·HIBERNIA. J722. Hibernia seated to left, holding a harp before her upon which she plays. Weight, 133 grains. Pl. IV, 11.

Proofs occur in copper and silver. *Nelson Collection.*

The next piece was no doubt the design which gave the greatest satisfaction, for with the omission of a dot we find that the reverse was repeated in 1723 and again in 1724. This coin on account of its rarity may be considered a pattern and also because of a dot before, as well as after HIBERNIA, which occurs on the patterns of 1722, but on no subsequent issue except the pattern halfpenny of 1723.

HALFPENNY, 1722.

No. 4 Pattern.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS. DEI. GRATIA. REX. Laureated head of the King to right.

Reverse.—·HIBERNIA. J722. Hibernia seated with harp by her side, upon which she rests her left hand, whilst in her right she holds a palm-branch. Weight, 111 grains.

Proofs exist in copper.

Subsequently to this would appear a similar coin dated 1723.

HALFPENNY, 1723.

No. 5 Pattern.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS. DEI. GRATIA. REX. Laureated head of the King to right.

Reverse.—·HIBERNIA. J723. Seated figure of Hibernia leaning on a harp, holding a palm-branch in her right hand. Weight, 120 grains.

On some examples the date 1723 is overstruck on 1722.

Proofs occur in silver and copper.

The next piece of the year 1723 is a farthing, having the same obverse as the pattern farthing of the year 1722.

FARTHING, 1723.

No. 6 Pattern.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS . D : G : REX. Laureated head of the King to right.

Reverse.—HIBERNIA. 1723. Seated figure of Hibernia leaning on a harp, holding in her right hand a palm-branch. Weight, 61 grains. Pl. IV, 10, 13.

This would be followed by the usual type of farthing with the obverse legend in full, and at the same time would be struck the corresponding halfpenny.

FARTHING, 1723.

No 7.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS. DEI. GRATIA. REX. Laureated head of the King to right.

Reverse.—HIBERNIA. 1723. Seated figure of Hibernia leaning on a harp, holding in her right hand a palm-branch. Weight, 63 grains. Pl. IV, 13.

Proofs are found in copper and in silver.

HALFPENNY, 1723.

No. 8.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS. DEI. GRATIA. REX. Laureated head of the King to right.

Reverse.—HIBERNIA. 1723. Seated figure of Hibernia leaning on a harp, holding in her right hand a palm-branch. Weight, 113 grains.

Subsequently a pattern with a star on the reverse would be struck but as we do not find this repeated, it was probably not accepted for currency.

HALFPENNY, 1723.

No. 9.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS . DEI . GRATIA . REX. Laureated head of the King to right.

Reverse.—HIBERNIA ✶ 1723. Seated figure of Hibernia leaning on a harp, holding in her right hand a palm-branch. Weight, 110 grains. Pl. IV, 12.

For 1724, the last year of the coinage, the ordinary issue is similar to that of 1723.

FARTHING, 1724.

No. 10.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS . DEI . GRATIA . REX. Laureated head of the King to right.

Reverse.—HIBERNIA. 1724. Seated figure of Hibernia leaning on a harp, holding in her right hand a palm-branch. Weight, 56 grains.

HALFPENNY, 1724.

No. 11.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS . DEI . GRATIA . REX. Laureated head of the King to right.

Reverse.—HIBERNIA. 1724. Seated figure of Hibernia leaning on a harp, holding in her right hand a palm-branch. Weight, 118 grains. Pl. IV, 14.

A proof of this exists in silver. *Nelson Collection.*

Specimens of Nos. 10 and 11 occur in which the dot after the date is omitted.

Of the year 1724, we also find the following patterns:—

FARTHING, 1724.

No. 12 Pattern.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS . D : GRA . REX. Laureated bust of the King to right, with hair curling beneath the neck.

Reverse.—HIBERNIA. Seated figure of Hibernia to left, leaning on a harp, holding a palm-branch in her right hand; date in exergue, 1724. Weight, 78 grains. Pl. V, 4.

A proof of this exists in silver and also in copper. *Nelson Collection.*

HALFPENNY, 1724.

No. 13 Pattern.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS. DEI. GRATIA. REX. Fine laureated head of the King to right, with flowing hair curling beneath the truncation of the neck.

Reverse.—HIBERNIA. Seated figure of Hibernia to left leaning on a harp, holding a palm-branch in her right hand; date in exergue, 1724. Weight, 128 grains. Pl. V, 1.

Proofs occur in copper of this piece, which is found struck from the same obverse die as No. 15.

FARTHING, 1724.

No. 14 Pattern.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS D : GRA . REX . Laureated head of the King to right, with flowing hair curling beneath the truncation of the neck.

Reverse.—REGIT ✱ UNUS ✱ UTROQUE J724, surrounding crossed trident and sceptre, united by a triple knot. Weight 79 grains. Pl. V, 3.

Proofs exist in copper.

HALFPENNY, 1724.

No. 15 Pattern.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS . DEI . GRATIA. REX. Fine laureated head of the king to right with flowing hair curling beneath the prominent truncation of the neck.

Reverse.—REGIT ✱ VNVS ✱ VTROQVE ✱ J724 ✱ surrounding crossed sceptre and a trident united by a triple knot. Weight 136 grains. Pl. V, 2.

Proofs exist in copper.

HALFPENNY, 1724.

No. 16 Pattern.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS . DEI . GRATIA . REX. Laureated bust of the King to right.

Reverse.—HIBERNIA · J724. Seated figure of Hibernia, leaning on a harp, holding in her right hand a palm branch. The legend begins and ends about the level of the harp.

This coin, which is struck in a whitish metal, is of considerable rarity. Weight, 110 grains.

The design of the reverses of the two pieces described as Nos. 14 and 16 was borrowed from a jetton of Charles I., the work of Nicholas Briot, viz. :—

A JETTON OF CHARLES I. BY BRIOT.

Obverse.—CAROLVS . D . G . ANG . SCO . FRAN . ET . HIB . REX FIDEI. DEF. Shield of Britain, beneath a crown, within the collar and badge of the Thistle, all contained by the Garter.
Reverse.—REGIT ✱ VNVS ✱ VTROQVE ✱ Crossed trident and sceptre united by a triple knot; in exergue, J628. Weight, 80 grains.

A mule exists formed by using the reverse dies of the pattern farthings of 1724.

FARTHING, 1724.

No. 17 Pattern.

Obverse.—HIBERNIA. Hibernia seated to left, leaning on a harp holding a palm-branch in her right hand, in exergue, J724.
Reverse.—REGIT ✱ UNUS ✱ UTROQUE J724. Crossed trident and sceptre united by a triple knot. Weight, 76 grains. Pl. V, 3, 4.

FARTHING.

No. 18 Pattern.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS · DEI : GRA. Fine laureated head of the King to right with curling hair.
Reverse.—Female figure seated to left, holding in her outstretched right hand a large orb, her left arm supports a sceptre and rests upon a shield which bears the rose and thistle; behind the shield is a harp. No date. Weight, 76 grains. Pl. V, 3A.

In the Supplement to Simon's *Coinage of Ireland*, p. 6, Snelling describes a halfpenny in which Hibernia points to a sun in the upper part of the field; this may have been a worn example of the above coin.

GEORGE II. 1727–1760.

In the year 1736, pieces of the value of halfpence and farthings were struck in London at the Tower, and forwarded to Dublin for use in Ireland. They were of standard copper, well struck and of good design. The amount of such coins issued to January, 1739, was fifty tons, from 1741 to 1749 one hundred tons,

and from 1750–1753 thirty-nine tons four cwts., of which fifty-two halfpence were made from a pound of copper, and of the total, five-sixths consisted of halfpence, the remainder of farthings; the legal tender being limited to sixpence.

HALFPENNY.

No. 1. *Obverse.*—GEORGIUS · II · REX. Youthful laureated head of the king to left with short hair.
Reverse.—HIBERNIA. A harp above which is a crown and beneath is the date 1736. Edge plain. Weight, 134 grains. Pl. V, 5.

The various dates are 1736, 1737, 1738, 1741, 1742, 1743, 1744, 1745 and 1746. Proofs exist of 1736 both in copper and silver.

FARTHING.

No. 2. *Obverse.*—Obverse and reverse as the halfpenny. Edge plain. Weight, 68 grains.

These occur of the years 1737, 1738, and 1744, and of the first date there are proofs both in silver and copper.

HALFPENNIES.

No. 3. *Obverse.*—GEORGIUS II. REX. A somewhat elderly head of the king laureated to left with hair curling beneath the truncation of the neck.
Reverse.—HIBERNIA. A harp surmounted by a crown, the date 1742 beneath. Edge plain. Weight 133 grains. *Hoblyn Cabinet.* Pl. V, 8.

Both the *Obverse* and *Reverse* show numerous flaw marks, which may account for the great rarity of the piece, as the dies probably broke after but few examples had been struck.

No. 4. *Obverse.*—GEORGIVS. II. REX. Elderly head of the king laureated to left.
Reverse.—HIBERNIA. A harp beneath a crown with the date below. Edge plain. Weight, 135 grains. Pl. V, 6.

The dates are 1747, 1748, 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752, 1753 and 1755.

No. 5. *Obverse.*—GEORGIVS . II . REX. Old laureated head of the king to left.

Reverse.—HIBERNIA. A harp beneath a crown with the date 1760 below. Edge plain. Weight 136 grains. Pl. V, 7.

FARTHING.

Obverse and *Reverse.*—Similar to the previous coin and also dated 1760. Edge plain. Weight 68 grains.

The issue of these coins was continued until April, 1762, and fifty tons was the quantity coined.

THE "VOCE POPULI" COINAGE, 1760.

The coins known as the Voce Populi pieces were struck in the year 1760, doubtless subsequently to the death of George II. They were prepared by one Roche, of King Street Dublin, who was at that period engaged in the manufacture of buttons for the Army, for which he held a contract from the home Government. These pieces bear upon the *obverse* the laureated bust of a man aged about forty years, and on some examples the letter P occurs. It has been suggested that these coins were perhaps intended to represent Prince Charles Edward, the young Pretender, the initial P being in that case used for *Princeps;* and the issue would thus act as a counterblast to the claims of George III. to the crown of England, and fan into life the dying embers of the Stuart cause.

The real explanation of the mystery seems, however, to be given us in pamphlet No. 428 in the Harleian Library, where the following interesting statement appears:—

> "The Irish halfpence, Voce Populi, 1760, were struck in two different dies, in consequence of the delay they suffered in the receipt of a coinage from England, the head is that of Hely Hutchinson afterwards Provost of Dublin College, &c., &c.,"

Is it possible that the letter P may indicate Provost? The date of his appointment as Provost should almost solve the problem.

The coinage consists of halfpence, of which there are some twelve distinct varieties, together with farthings of two varieties and of rather superior execution.

Mr. Hoblyn has arranged these pieces in five types comprising twelve varieties in all for the halfpenny, and two varieties for the farthing. All are dated 1760.

HALFPENNIES.

Type I.

No. 1. *Obverse.*—VOCE ✱ POPULI. Youthful bust, well executed, to right, a rosette between the words.
Reverse.—HIBER N IA + + 1760. Seated figure of Hibernia, to left, with spear and harp.[1] Pl. VI, 1.

This piece, as regards the portrait, resembles the farthing, and has been hitherto unpublished. *Hoblyn and Nelson Cabinets.*

Type II.

No. 2. *Obverse.*—Portrait differs: a rosette between the words.
Reverse.—Similar to No. 1.[2] Pl. V, 9.

This piece is of somewhat rough execution, and is apparently cast.

No. 3. *Obverse.*—VOCE POPULI. Portrait nearly similar to No. 2, but legend often blundered thus, VOOE.
Reverse.—· HIBE RNIA · As before.[3] Pl. V, 11.

Proofs exist of this coin, which is neatly executed, and usually struck, but also sometimes cast.

Type III.

No. 4. *Obverse.*—VOCE + POPULI. Singular portrait, not resembling the preceding.
Reverse.—HIBER NIA + + 1760.[4] Pl. VI, 2.

Examples of this occur both struck and cast. A variety has points on each side of Hibernia instead of the two crosses.

[1] Two annulets on harp, eight strings.
[2] Flower and annulet on harp, eight strings.
[3] Annulet and dot on harp, eight strings.
[4] Two annulets on harp, eight strings.

No. 5. *Obverse.*—As No. 2.
Reverse.—As No. 4.[1] Pl. V, 9; VI, 2.

TYPE IV.

No. 6. *Obverse.*—VOCE POPULI. An older portrait.
Reverse.—· HIBE RNIA · 1760.[2] Pl. V, 10.

I have only seen cast specimens of this coin. It is rare.

No. 7. *Obverse.*—VOCE POPULI. Portrait nearly similar to No. 5.
Reverse.—HIBE RNIA + + 1760.[3] Pl. V, 12.

A variety has the appearance of having been struck over another coin.

No. 8. *Obverse.*—VOCE ⊛ POPULI. Same portrait as last, a rosette between the words.
Reverse.—· HIBE RNIA · 1760.[4] Pl. V, 13.

This type is very circular. It occurs both struck and cast.

No. 9. *Obverse.*—VOCE ⊛ POPULI. Portrait differs in small detail, rosette as before.
Reverse.—HIBER NIA + + 1760.[5] Pl. V, 14.

These occur with a full border, on large flans, and on small thick flans, and are both struck and cast.

TYPE V.

No. 10. *Obverse.*—VOCE POPULI. A very peculiar long-headed bust, heavily laureated, and badly struck.
Reverse.—HIBER NIA ⊛ ⊛ Rosettes large, 1760.[6] *Hoblyn Cabinet.* Pl. VI, 3.

This type is apparently unpublished.

No. 11. *Obverse.*—VOCE · POPULI. Same portrait, but P under bust.
Reverse.—HIBER NIA ⊛ ⊛ Rosettes large, 1760.[7] Pl. VI, 4.

[1] Two annulets on harp, eight strings.
[2] Marks on harp indistinct, eight strings.
[3] Two annulets on harp, nine strings.
[4] Flower and dot on harp, seven strings.
[5] Flower and annulet on harp, eight strings.
[6] Annulets on harp, six strings.
[7] Two annulets on harp, six strings.

This is a common type, and is of poor work. A specimen in the cabinet of Mr. Lionel Fletcher has the P further back under the bust; and the portrait more like that on Type II., No. 2, Fig. 3.

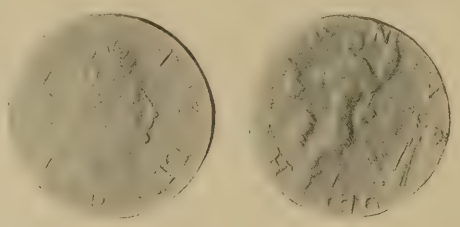


FIG. 3.

No. 12. *Obverse.*—VOCE · POPULI. Same portrait, but P in front of face.
Reverse.—HIBER NIA ⊛ ⊛ Rosettes large, 1760.[1] Pl. VI, 5.

It has been stated that there is a further type of the above character, with P on the *reverse;* but such a coin has not been traceable in any collection, public or private.

There are roughly *five* quite distinct portraits upon these halfpennies, viz.:—(1) No. 1, (2) Nos. 2 and 3, (3) No. 4, (4) Nos. 5 to 9, (5) Nos. 10 to 12.

The harp, which is variously ornamented with annulets or rosettes, and sometimes pellets, has 6, 7, 8 or 9 strings. The weights vary from 102 to 136 grains.

A considerable controversy arose between the late Dr. Aquilla Smith and Dr. Clay, of Manchester, as to the letter P on these coins, and other points; in regard to which the reader is referred to the *Proceedings of the Manchester Numismatic Society*, 1866 (Part III., p. 54), and to the *Journal of the Historical and Archæological Society of Ireland* (No. 7, July, 1869). The reference to halfpennies with the inscription VOX POPULI is, in Mr. Hoblyn's opinion, mythical. *See* also *Pinkerton's Essay on Medals*, 1789, Vol. II., p. 127; and *Lindsay's View of the Coinage of Ireland*, 1839, p. 139; and, finally, the article communicated, in 1862, to the Numismatic Society of London by the late Rev. Henry Christmas, entitled "Irish Coins of Copper and Billon."

[1] Annulet and dot on harp, six strings.

FARTHINGS.

No. 1. *Obverse.*—VOCE POPULI. Youthful bust, well executed, and very similar to the halfpenny, Type I.
Reverse.—HIBER NIA 1760. Seated figure of Hibernia to left, with spear and harp.[1] Pl. V, 16.

This coin is very rare, and there are proofs of it.

No. 2. *Obverse.*—VOCE POPULI. Portrait very similar, but from a different die.
Reverse.—HIBER NIA 1760. As before.[1] Pl. V, 15.

Mr. Christmas alludes to two types; and this latter is excessively rare. The only specimen with which I was acquainted was in the Marsham and Caldecott collections, and is now in the Hoblyn cabinet. Another example has however recently been discovered.

GEORGE III., 1760–1820.

In 1760, George III. succeeded his grandfather on the throne of England; and, six years subsequently, *i.e.*, in 1766, issued his first coins, viz., halfpence, for Ireland. These pieces present to our view a weak-looking portrait of the king and were issued in this year and in 1769, to the amount of one hundred tons, *i.e.*, fifty tons for each date. For the cost of their coining the Mint Master received five pence for each pound of metal struck, which he proportioned thus:—to the moneyers for striking, two pence, for barrelling, seven-eighths of a penny; to the die forger, one farthing; and a similar sum to the engraver; whilst to his deputy he gave the sum of one pound sterling per ton.

HALFPENNIES.

Obverse.—GEORGIVS. III. REX. Youthful head of the king, laureated to right, the portrait being weak in expression.
Reverse.—HIBERNIA. A harp, above which is a crown, and beneath, the date 1766 or 1769. Edge plain. Weight 125 grains. Pl. VI, 6.

Of the year 1769 we also find another halfpenny of finer execution on which the king is represented by a much better

[1] Annulet on harp, six strings.

portrait. This coin from its comparative rarity may be regarded as a pattern.

Obverse.—GEORGIVS. III. REX. Laureated head of the king to right.
Reverse.—HIBERNIA. A harp surmounted by a crown, date 1769 beneath. Edge plain. Weight 134 grains. Pl. VI, 7.

In the year 1773 a pattern for a halfpenny was struck.

PATTERN 1773.

Obverse.—GEORGIVS. III. REX. Laureated head of the king to right with curls on neck and beneath the truncation.
Reverse.—HIBERNIA. A harp above which is a crown and beneath is the date 1773. Weight 135 grains. Pl. VI, 8.

HALFPENNY, 1774.

Obverse.—GEORGIVS III. REX. Laureated bust of the king to right, with hair tied behind and falling in curls beneath the neck.
Reverse.—HIBERNIA. A harp beneath a crown and below the date 1774. Weight 134 grains. Pl. VI, 9.

The coin of this date is very rare, and has been regarded as a pattern. *Hoblyn Collection.*

The dates are 1774, 1775, 1776, 1781, 1782 and 1783, and proofs are known in copper of the years 1775 and 1782.

PATTERN PENNY, 1789.

In 1789, Mossop, a jeweller in Dublin and a die-sinker of very considerable merit, prepared a pattern penny, of which only six examples are said to have been struck, and two of them were presented to George III. Its rarity is due to the fact that the die for the reverse broke.

> "During the administration of the Marquis of Rockingham he produced a pattern piece, which he denominated the Union Penny, engraved after a design by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Only six impressions were struck before the die was destroyed, but so admirable was the execution, that two were thought worthy of a place in the cabinet of the reigning monarch."[1]

[1] *Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy*, Vol. XIX, "A Memoir of the Medals and Medalists connected with Ireland," by the Very Rev. Henry Richard Dawson, A.M., Dean of St. Patrick's. Read 16th March, 1838, p. 16. (William Stephen Mossop, the elder.)

One example shows the flaw in an early state. *Nelson Collection.*

Obverse.—GEORGIVS III REX. Head of the king with short hair to right; beneath is a harp.

Reverse.—CONCORDIA. Two emblematical figures of Britannia on the right and Hibernia on the left of a flaming altar, over which they are joining hands, whilst beneath are two cornucopiæ. Hibernia holds a harp, whilst Britannia supports a spear and shield. Behind the figure of Britannia is the British lion. Edge *engrailed* vertically. Weight 392 grains. This is in black bronze. Pl. VI, 10. *Nelson Collection.*

A rough proof of this coin exists in copper in an unfinished state, in which the harp beneath the bust on the obverse is wanting; it is struck off the centre of the flan.

PATTERN HALFPENNY, 1805.

In 1805 appeared a pattern halfpenny which, like the current coins of the same year, was the work of Kuchler and was struck at Boulton and Watt's Mint, Soho, Birmingham.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS III. D: G. REX. Large laureated and draped bust of the king to right with flowing curls.

Reverse.—HIBERNIA. A large harp beneath a crown, below is the date 1805. Edge grained diagonally. Weight 130 grains.

PENNY, 1805.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS III. D: G. REX. Laureated and draped bust of the king to right with hair tied behind.

Reverse.—HIBERNIA. A harp above which is a crown, and beneath the date 1805. Edge grained diagonally. Weight 268 grains.

HALFPENNY, 1805.

Obverse and *Reverse.*—As the penny. Weight 134 grains. Pl. VI, 13.

Proofs of these coins are known as follows:—In gold, silver gilt, bronze, and bronze of the penny and halfpenny, both with plain and engrailed edges.

Of the year 1806 two farthings exist, one similar to the coins of 1805, and another, probably a pattern, in which the letters of the legend are much larger than those on the current coin. The edges of both these coins are engraved diagonally. Proofs of the farthing exist in gold, silver and bronze with plain and engrailed edges.

PATTERN PENNIES, 1813.

In 1813 Thomas Wyon prepared a die for the reverse of an Irish penny, which he united with the obverse dies of the two stiver piece of Ceylon, and the one stiver piece of Demerara respectively, thus making two patterns.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS III. D. G. REX. A large laureated and draped bust of the king to right.

Reverse.—HIBERNIA. A small harp beneath a small crown, the date 1813 below. Edge engrailed diagonally. Weight 276 grains. Pl. VI, 12.

This coin is likewise known gilded. Six pieces only are said to have been struck.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS III. D. G. BRITANNIARUM. REX. Laureated and draped bust of king to right, beneath which is T. W below a rose.

Reverse.—Similar to the previous coin. Edge engrailed diagonally. Weight 275 grains. Pl. VI, 11.

This piece is also found gilt; and six specimens only exist.

GEORGE IV., 1820–1830.

In this reign were issued the last coins struck for Ireland, namely, in 1822–1823, of both of which years copper pieces exist. The Irish coinage was withdrawn from circulation in 1826, when, as previously remarked, the money for the United Kingdom and Ireland was assimilated.

PATTERN PENNY, 1822.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS IV D: G: REX. Laureated and draped bust of the king to left.

Reverse.—HIBERNIA. A small harp surmounted by a small crown; and, beneath, the date 1822. Edge plain. Weight 265 grains. Pl. VI, 15.

Of this coin only six specimens were struck, and from the similarity of its reverse to that of the pattern penny of 1813, the design may be attributed to Thomas Wyon. The obverse dies of all the Irish coins of this reign were the work of B. Pistrucci, and, if this attribution be correct, the reverses were the work of Wyon.

PENNY, 1822.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS IV. D: G: REX. Laureated and draped bust of the king to left.

Reverse.—HIBERNIA. A large harp, above which is a large crown; and, beneath, is the date 1822. Edge plain. Weight 266 grains.

HALFPENNY, 1822.

Obverse and *Reverse.*—As the penny. Edge plain. Weight 135 grains.

PATTERN FARTHING, 1822.

Obverse and *Reverse.*—As the penny. Edge plain. Weight 67 grains. Pl. VI, 14.

Six specimens only of this pattern are said to have been struck, examples being in the *Hoblyn* and *Nelson Collections.*

PENCE AND HALFPENCE, 1823.

During the following year, 1823, pence and halfpence, exactly similar to the current coins of 1822, were struck. Proofs occur in copper of the pence and halfpence of 1822 and 1823.

A CURIOUS PENNY.

A curious coin exists, the obverse die being that of the Irish penny of George IV., the reverse that of the coin of the same size of the Ionian Islands. Only three examples are known and these are in the Imperial Collection at Vienna, in the *Hoblyn Collection* and in the author's cabinet.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS . IV . D : G : REX. Laureated and draped bust of the king to left.

Reverse.—BRITANNIA. Seated figure of Britannia holding in her right hand a branch and in her left a trident. Edge plain. Weight 260 grains.

On June 27, 1825, an Act was passed providing for the assimilation of the currency and monies of account throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the penny to pass current as $\frac{1}{13}$ of the English shilling. On January 13 following, English copper coins became current in Ireland by proclamation, and on July 12, a proclamation was issued declaring Irish copper coins to be no longer current within that kingdom. With this year the coinage of Ireland as distinct from that of England comes to an end.

HISTORICAL RECORDS.

1460 A.D.

At a Parliament held at Drogheda before Richard Duke of York, Lord Lieutenant, it was enacted:

> That the English noble of lawful weight shall pass in Ireland at the value of eight shillings and four pence, and half-noble at four shillings and two pence, the quadrant-d'or of the same coin and weight at two shillings and one penny. The gross [groat] of London, York and Calais, not clipped within the extreme circle, at five pence, the demy-gross at two pence half-penny, the denier at one penny farthing: the gross clipped at four pence, the demy-gross at two pence half-penny, the denier clipped at one penny. And as not only the duchy of Normandy but also the duchy of Guienne, when they were under the obedience of the realm of England, yet were no less separate from the laws and statutes of England, and had also coins for themselves different from the coin of England; so Ireland, though it be under the obedience of the same realm is nevertheless separate from it, and from all the laws and statutes of it, only such as are there by the lords spiritual and temporal and Commons freely admitted and accepted of in parliament or great council, by which a proper coin separate from the coin of England was with more convenience agreed to be had in Ireland under two forms; the one of the weight of half-quarter of an ounce troy weight, on which shall be imprinted on one side a lyon, and on the other side a crown, called an Irlandes d'argent, to pass for the value of one penny sterling; the other of vij. ob of troy weight, having imprinted on one part of it a crown, and on the other part a cross, called a Patrick, of which eight shall pass for one denier. That a gross be made of the weight of three deniers sterling, and to pass for four deniers sterling, which shall have imprinted on it on one side a crown, and on the other side a cross like the coin of Calais, bearing about the cross in writing the name of the place where the coin is made; and that every person, who brings bullion to the mint, ought to receive and have for every ounce of silver troy weight, nine of the said grosses of the value of three deniers. That the coin called the Jack be hereafter of no value

and void, and that the above coins be made in the castles of Dublin and Trymme [Trim]. This act to commence on St. Patrick s day.

1463 A.D.

At a Parliament held at Weys (Wexford) before Thomas Earl of Desmond, deputy to George Duke of Clarence, was passed :

An Act for confirming letters patent made to Germyn Lynch of London, goldsmith, for coining money, the substance of which letter patent is as follows :—viz., Edwardus &c., we have ordained Germyn Lynch of London, goldsmith, warden and master-worker of our moneys and coins within our castle of Dublin, and within our castle of Trymme, [Trim] and graver of the punsons [puncheons] of the said minie [money] and coins to occupy by himself or deputy during his life, giving him and them authority to make all our said moneys and coins, according to the tenor and effect of our statute or statutes by authority of a parliament holden at Drogheda before Richard late duke of Yorke then lord lieutenant, on the Friday after the feast of St. Blase the bishop, 38 Hen. VI. We give full power to the said Germyn Lynch and his deputy, during his life, to make all our said money and coins, and to do all things needful thereto within the town of Galway, that is, to make a piece of silver running at and of the value of four deniers, whereof one hundred and twenty shall go to the pound of troy, and to the ounce of the same, ten ; whereof the master to answer us of one plate of every such pound so made for the coinage, and the merchant one hundred and fourteen plates, and the master to have the other five plates to his use. And also another piece of silver coine, of the value of two deniers, whereof two hundred and forty to go to the pound, or to the ounce of the same twenty, with proportionable allowance as before :—Also another piece of silver coin of the value of one denier, whereof four hundred and eighty go to the pound, and to the ounce of the same forty, with proportionable allowance as before, and that the ounce of every of the aforesaid money coined, shall be departed in like form after the said afferance and rate. Also eight pieces of brass running at and of the value of one penny of our said silver. That all the aforesaid moneys and coins of silver and brass shall be imprinted and bear scripture, and be of the weight, allaie [assay] and fineness, as is specified in the said statute or statutes. We give full power

to the said Germyn or his deputy or deputies during his life, to make and strike in the said castles and town, and every of them, four pieces of brass or copper running at one penny of our said silver, to be imprinted with the figure of a bishop's head, and a scripture of this word "Patrick" about the same head on the one side, and with a cross with this word "Salvator," then about on the other side, and to make as much or as little of every sort of the said moneys or coins of brass or copper, as he shall think to be profitable and good. And we grant to the said Germyn all the said moneys and coins of brass and copper to his proper use, in sustentation and finding of our labourers about the said money at his charges, free and quit, without any thing therefore paying to us during his said life. The master of the ming [mint] to account for our share of the profits of the said coinage to such person, as shall be assigned by the lieutenant or other governor of our said land, and not in the exchequer. That the weight and quantity of the said moneys of brass or copper be devised and made continually by the discretion of the master. As the said silver moneys may not be always made according to the right standard, because sometime, in default of the said master or workers, the said money of silver may be made too much or too little in weight or in allay, or in the one or in the other, by six penny-weight in every of the said pounds of troy; which six penny-weight shall be called remedy for the said master, and if such default be found in any of the said pounds upon the due assen [trial or assay] before the deliverance over of the said six penny-weight called remedy, that then it shall be challenged by the merchant, and not to be delivered, and then the said master shall reforge the said moneys so found defective, at his proper costs, till it be made able according to the ordinance. We grant power to the said Germyn to make all manner of punchons, screws, graves, and other instruments necessary to the said minters, at London or elsewhere, for which instruments to be made, we grant to him ten marks yearly to be received by his own hand out of the profits of our said moneys arising by such mints, to be allowed him on account. That he shall make a privy sign on every piece of silver money. Power to take at all times as many labourers yearly as shall be necessary. And if any labourer refuses to work at the said mints, that the master or his deputy shall arrest, and put them in prison, till he labours as desired. All officers ministers commanded to assist the said Germyn in the execution of the premisses. Grant to all merchants repairing to any of the said mints, free entry and issue in and out of the said castles and towns. Dated 6th Augusti primo Regni per Regem authoritate Parliamenti.

1467 A.D.

At a Parliament holden in Dublin, before John Earl of Worcester, deputy to George Duke of Clarence, Lord Lieutenant, it was enacted as follows :—

> Whereas in a parliament held before Thomas earl of Desmond, in the fifth year of the present king, it was enacted, that the noble of due weight should be of the value of ten shillings, the demy-noble of five shillings, and the quadrant of gold of two shillings and six pence, and that for laccage in weight of such pieces of gold, they should be refused ; it is now enacted, that the laccage in weight in such pieces of gold shall not be a cause for refusing them, but the value of such laccage shall be paid in current silver after the rate hereafter rehearsed Cap. 8. As Ireland is destitute of silver, and the silver there made of late is daily carried away into divers countries, and so the people of this land continually take clipped money, contrary to the statute, it is enacted, that there be a piece of silver coined called a double, having the print of a crown on one side, with this writing, 'Edwardus Dei gratia Dominus Hibernie,' and on the other part a sun with a rose, with this inscription about it, 'Civitas Dublinie,' which shall pass in Ireland for eight deniers, and ten such pieces shall make an ounce according to the rightful standard of the Tower of London, and twelve such ounces shall make the pound according to the standard aforesaid, and there shall be in every pound six score such pieces of the weight of the said country. Also there shall be another piece of silver called a gross, having the print and scripture aforesaid, which shall pass in Ireland for four deniers ; and twenty such pieces shall go to an ounce of the said country, and two hundred and forty such pieces shall make the pound of the rightful standard aforesaid : of which coins every merchant shall have for an ounce sterling of silver six shillings, and the king shall have the residue, paying the master and workmen for their labour. And as the said silver money cannot be continually made of equal standard, because sometimes, in default of the master or workmen, they may be too great or too little in weight or allay, or in one or in the other, in weight of three deniers in every twenty shillings, the which weight of three deniers shall be called remedy for the said master. Also that there be a piece made of two deniers, or half the gross of the proportions aforesaid ; of which forty such pieces shall go to the ounce besides the allay. Also that a piece be made

called the denier, containing the half of the piece of two deniers, eighty of which shall go to the ounce besides the allay. Half-deniers and farthings to be made according to the same proportions, mutatis mutandis, with the like provisions: and that the print of the half-denier and farthing be made according to the print of the denier, with a scripture as long as the master and workmen can make them. That the said moneys and coins be made in the castles of Dublin and Trym, the cities of Waterford and Limerick, and the towns of Drogheda, Galway and Carlingford; and that no body shall after Easter next receive or pay any manner of silver coyne or money, but the coin or money aforesaid, and that all other silver coins or money in Ireland be from the feast of Easter next damned and annulled; and if any person or persons receives or pays otherwise, that such payment shall be adjudged felony in the payer as in the receiver.

1601 A.D.

Proclamation by the Queen.

The Queenes most excellent majestie finding by the recordes of both her realmes of England and Ireland, that in the tymes of divers her progenitors, kings of England and Ireland, it hath ben accustomed, as a thing by them found convenient for the good of the loyall subjects of both realms, that there should be a difference betwene the standards of the monies allowed to be currant in each of her said realmes, and knowing by many lawes of her realme of England, and namely, by one made in the third yeare, and one other in the nineteenth yeare of her majesties grandfather of famous memorie, king Henrie the seventh, that the transportation of monies of the coyne and standerd of England into this her realme of Ireland is severely forbidden, under great penalties, perceiving also by experience in some part heretofore, but more fullie and apparantlie now of late yeares since the last rebellion, which have caused her majestie to send great summes of money into this realme for the payment of her army, and for other services, that a great part of such monies into this realme sent doe either come into the handes of her rebels by divers sleights and cunnings of theirs, who by the use and meanes thereof trafficking in forraine countries do releive themselves with such warlike provisions as they need, as with pouder, lead, match, armes, and weapons of all sorts, and with wines, cloth and other necessaries, without which they could not possibly so long subsist in their treasonable courses, and

bring so huge calamities to the rest of her good subjects and wast to the whole realme; or els the said sterling monies, as well in respect of their goodness being better than the monies of other countries, as also for want of marchandise wherein to employe them with this countrie, now especially since the rebellion doth not yeeld, and partly by marchants, strangers, and partly by the naturall marchants of the countrey using trade in forraigne countries, transported from hence into the said countries, to the inestimable losse and impoverishment as well of this realme of Ireland, as also chiefly of her majesties realme of England; hath therefore in her majesties princely wisdome entred into consideration, with the advise of her privie councell, how those great inconveniences might be avoided, and hath found after long and serious debateing, that the readiest way to prevent the same is to reduce the state of her monies and coynes to the antient course of her progenitors, that is, to a difference in fineness betweene the monies of the realme of England and her realme of Ireland, and for that purpose hath caused great quantities of monies, according to that antient standard which was in use for this realme in the daies of her majesties father, brother, and sister, to be coined here into severall pieces of Shillings, six pence, and pieces of three pence, stamped with her highnes armes crowned, and inscription of her usual stile on the one side, and on the other with an harpe crowned, being the arms of this her kingdome of Ireland, with the inscription, *posui Deum adjutorem meum.* And also certayne peeces of small monies of meere copper, of Pence, Half-pence and Farthings, for the poorer sort, stamped on each side as the other, and the same monies soe coined hath sent into this her realme of Ireland, here to be established as the lawfull and currant monies of this realme, and soe to be uttered and issued as well to her armie and officers in paiments to them, as also to all others her subjects of this realme and others here abiding or hither resorting for trafficke and entercouse of buying, selling, and all other manner of tradeing amongst themselves, which said coines, as well of silver of this new standard, as also of meere copper for small mony, her majestie doth hereby publish and make knowen to all men to be from henceforth, immediately after the publishing of this proclamation, her coine and monies established and authorized to be lawfull and currant within this her realme of Ireland and proper to this kingdome, and doth expressly will and command the same to be soe used, reputed and taking of all her subjects of this realme and of all others conversing here, and that they nor any of them shall not after the day of the publishing hereof refuse, reject or denie, to receive in payment of wages, fees, stipend or payments of debts, or in bargaine, or for anie other matter of trade, commerce, or dealing betweene man and man, any of said monies of either kind either mixt

of silver or pure copper, but that they shall receive and accept the same at such values and rates as they are coined for, *videlicet*, Shillings, for shillings, pieces of six pence, for six pence, and soe of all other the severall kindes of this coin respectively, denouncing hereby to all such as shall be found willfully and obstinatlie to refuse the said monies of this new standard, being tendered unto them in payments, or in anye dealings between partie and partie, that they shall for that their contempt receive such punishment as by her majesties preogative royall may be inflicted uppon persons contemning publike orders established for the universall good of this her realme; and to the end that the said monies may the better have their due course and passage among her majesties subjects of this realme, and the good intended to both the realmes the more speedilye take place, her majestie doth hereby also publishe and make knowne that her pleasure is, that after the tenth of Julie ymmediatelye following the daie of this present proclamation, all other monies heretofore established to be currant, or used as lawfull or currant monies within this kingdome shall be decryed, adnulled and called downe, and noe other monies of what coyne, nature, mixture, allay or finenesse now used in this realme of Ireland, be they either monies of her majesties owne coyne and stampe currant in her realme of England, or of anye her predecessors, or of any forraine realmes permitted heretofore to be currant here, shall be any longer currant within her realme of Ireland, nor offered nor received by any person here inhabiting or here conversing by any manner of dealing amongst men, but that all such monies be from that daye forward held and esteemed for bullion onely meete to be molten downe and brought unto her majesties mynt, or exchange here, as hereafter is expressed. And although that this open and publike notification of her majesties pleasure bee and ought to bee to all her subjects and others being in this realme a sufficient declaration and warrant, as well of the authorizing of the monies of the new standerd nowe appointed to be currant, and also the calling downe and decrying of all other monies whatsoever from anie use here either publike or private: yet her highnesse being a prince that in her gracious disposition doth ever affect to make all her actions cleare and allowable, in her owne nature, rather than in the power of supreme authoritie, extending in this cause, to give to all persons such satisfaction as is reasonable and in the daies of her progenitors, when such monies were in use, was not offered, doth likewise hereby make knowne, that shee hath established an exchange to be had and maintained in convenient places in both her kingdomes of England and Ireland: as namelie, in Ireland, at Dublin, Corke, Galway, and Carigfergus: and in England, at London, Bristoll, and Chester. At which places shall be from henceforthe contynuallie

resident officers of her appointment, and in other places also of bothe the realmes, where it shall be found convenient for the ease of her subjects: at which places, and by which officers, all her subjects of either her realms of England and Ireland, and all other resorting unto this her realme of Ireland in trade of merchandise or otherwise, shall and may, from tyme to tyme, exchange and commute as well monies currant of England into monies of this new standerd of Ireland, as also monies of this standerd of Ireland into monies of the standerd of England, at their pleasure, in manner as is hereafter expressed. First, all persons, being either her majesties subjects or the subjects of anye prince or state in amitie with her majestie, who shall bring to anye place of exchange within Ireland any monies of the coyne of her realme of England, or of the coyne of any forraine countries, or any plate or bullion, being of the finenesse of the standerd of England, or better, desiring to receive for the same in England monies current of England, shall receive from the officer in Ireland a bill directed to such place of exchange in England, where the partie shall desire to have his payment, by which bill he shall receive of the officer in England, not onlie in monies of England, value for value of the monies, plate, or bullion, delivered in Ireland, but also an overplus of six pence English upon every twenty shillings Englishe by him delivered by tale, or of eighteen pence English upon every pound weight of such monies, plate, or bullion, delivered by the partie by weight, and after the same rate for more or less in quantitie or number, delivered by weight or by tale. Item, all persons, being her majesties subjects or the subjects of anie other prince or state in amitie with her majestie, which shall have in their handes anie quantitie or summe of the monies of this newe coine, appointed for her majesties realme of Ireland, and shall be desirous to receive for the same in England, monies current of England, and thereupon shall deliver to anie of her majesties officers of the Exchange in Ireland such summe of monie, as he is desirous so to exchange, he shall receive of the said officers in Ireland a bill directed to such place of exchange in England, as shall be desired by the deliverer, by which bill he shall receive of the officer in England, to whome the same is directed, the summe of monies of England by tale, as by the bill it shall appear he shall have delivered in Ireland, wanting onely twelve pence in the pounde, so for everye twentye shillings of the new coyne of Ireland, delivered in Ireland, he shall receive in England nyneteen shillings current monie of England, and after the same rate for more or lesse in quantitie delivered in Ireland. Item, if anye such person, having in his handes, within the realme of Ireland, monies currant of England, shall be desirous to exchange the same there for monies appointed to be currant in Ireland, the officer of the

Exchange there, to whome he shall bring anye summe of English monie to be exchanged, shall deliver to him, for everye twentye shillings of English monie received, one and twentye shillinges of the coyne of Ireland, and after that rate for more or lesse in quantitie received. Item, if any person, being her majesties subject or otherwise, having cause to resort unto the realme of Ireland, shall be desirous to exchange monies currant of England into the monies currant of Ireland, for his use there, and shall deliver to that end anye Englishe monies to anye of her majesties officers of exchange here in England, the said officer shall deliver unto the said person a bill, directed to such place of exchange in Ireland, as the deliverer shall require, by which bill the officer of exchange in Ireland, receivinge the same shall deliver to the bringer thereof, for every twentye shillinges Englishe, delivered in England, one and twentie shillinges of the new coyne of Ireland in Ireland, and after the same rate of more or lesse in quantitie delivered. And whereas there are, at this present, diverse old coynes of base allaye within that her majesties realme of Ireland, used and passinge in payments betwene men, which being now decryed, adnulled, and called downe, her majestie doth thinke fitt to have the same brought in and reduced to one uniforme coyne of this new standerd, her highnes is therefore pleased, that everye person whoe shall have in his hands any quantitie of such base coyne, and shall bring in the same to any of the offices of her Exchange in Ireland, that the officer receivinge the same shall deliver to the bringer monie for monie of the monies of this new standerd, now appointed to be currant in Ireland: and, forasmuch as this notorious inconvenience aforesaid cannot be prevented without there be a due observation of such lawes of this realme of England, as heretofore have bene made, restrainінge the transporteinge of the monies currant in England into that realme of Ireland in specie, wherein great disorder hath bene of late yeares committed, and therby great inconveniences ensued, her majestie doth straightlye charge and commaund all magistrates and officers to whom it shall apperteyne, to see severe execution of such lawes as doe prohibit the transportation of her coyne of England into Ireland, and namelye one statute made in the nineteenth yeare of the raigne of her majesties grand-father of famous memorie, kinge Henrye the seventh, her majesties purpose being by this proclamation to admonish her loving subjects of both her realmes, and all others tradinge in her realme of Ireland, that they shall from henceforth forbear all transportation of monies of England into Ireland, for that her majestie will cause the former lawes, prohibiting the said transportation of monies, to be so straightly looked unto and executed, as the penalties thereof shall fall heavilye upon the offenders against the same, without

any hope of remission. Given at her majesties castle of Dublin the twentieth of May in the fortie three yeare of her raigne. God save the Queene.

1634 A.D.

Proclamation concerning the token coinage.

Whereas divers complaints have been made unto us the lord deputy from several parts of this kingdome, concerning the stop and refusall of farthing tokens, proceeding as well from the abuse in counterfeiting the same, as in causing the same to pass in payment either for commodities, or for wages to workmen and labourers, in greater quantities then was intended, which abuses are become a great burthen and grievance to his majesties people in many parts of the realme, for the remedy and reformation whereof, and to the end that the said farthing tokens may be used onley for exchange in small summes, but not to be put upon any in great payments: These are therefore in his majesties name to publish and declare that it is utterly unlawfull and expressly contrary to his majesties letter patents and proclamations, that any such farthing tokens should be inforced upon any poore labourers or workmen, or any other person or persons in any payment, either of great or lesser summes and it is further declared, that no person should pay above two pence in farthings, to any other person at any one time; and also it is by these presents declared, that it is unlawfull for any man to buy or barter for any farthings, at, or for any lesser rate then they are usually vented by his majesties patents, to whom the sole making thereof is granted, and upon whom the rechange thereof lyeth: All persons being hereby to take notice, that whensoever they shall bring unto Edward Lake, agent for the said patentees, (who is resident in the city of Dublin) any sum of lawfull farthings, he, the said Edward Lake, will pay unto them the like summe in silver, according to the covenant with the patentees: And it is further declared, that if any person or persons shall forge or counterfeit any of the foresaid farthing tokens, or shall bring or cause to be brought into this kingdom any such farthing tokens, so forged or counterfeited, or shall vent or make payment of any such farthings so counterfeited as aforesaid, knowing the same to be counterfeited, that then every such person or persons, so offending, shall receive such censure, by losse of ears, or other corporal punishment, as by the court of castle chamber heere in this kingdom shall bee thought meete. And further it is declared, that it

shall be lawfull for, and we accordingly require and command all and singular maniors [mayors], justices of the peace, sheriffs, constables, headebouroughs, comptrollers, customers, searchers, waiters [? bailiffs], and other his majesties officers and ministers, to whom it shall or may appertaine, to apprehend all and every person or persons, whom they or any of them shall probably suspect to be such counterfeiters, as also, to seize upon all counterfeit farthings, and ingins, or instruments for the making or forging the same, and them so seized to breake in peeces and utterly deface: And lastly, all his majesties loving subjects are hereby required to apprehend and bring before some of his majesties justices of the peace all such persons as they shall know, or probably suspect to have counterfeited, brought into this kingdom, or vented such farthing tokens as aforesaid, and all the said justices of the peace are hereby commanded to commit to the next shire-gaol such offenders, so taken, there to remaine until they put in security to answere the said offences in the castle chamber, which bonds so to be taken from time to time, together with such examinations, as the said justices of the peace shall have taken of or concerning such offenders, they are from time to time, monethly, to return hither to his majesties atturney-generall, together with the names of such of them, as shall remaine in prison, for want of security to appear in the castle chamber. Given at his majesties castle of Dublin, the sixteenth of September 1634, in the tenth yeare of his reigne.

1660 A.D.

Sir Thomas Armstrong's Patent.

Charles the second, &c, To all &c. Whereas the makeing and uttering of farthing tokens hath been found to be of greate and generall use and benefit to our people of our realme of Ireland, as well amongst tradesmen for exchange of moneys in the course of their severall trades, and especially of the poore and meaner sort. Know yee &c. that we have granted and grant &c. for us &c to Sir Thomas Armstrong, knight, his heirs, executors, administrators and assignes, full power &c dureing the terme of twenty years from the date hereof, to soyn such a quantitie of farthing tokens of copper, as may be conveniently issued during the said terms amongst our subjects of Ireland. And that in order they may be distinguished from any other tokens, they shall be made of copper by engines, and shall have on one side two sceptres crossing one diadem, and on the other side a harpe

crowned with our title, "Carolus Secundus Magne Brittannie, Francie et Hibernie Rex," and to weigh twenty grains or more, with a privy marke from time to time in order to discover the counterfeiting of any such like tokens, which farthings tokens, we do hereby for us, our heirs, and successors, will and ordaine, shall pass and be generally used between man and man, that shall and will voluntarily and willingly pay and receive the same as tokens, for the value of farthings, within this our kingdom of Ireland, forbidding all other persons whatsoever to make, counterfeit and utter, any other such tokens, or any other pieces of copper, upon pain of forfeiture of the said counterfeited money, and engines used in the making thereof; all officers, justices and magistrates, ordered to be aiding and assisting the said Sir Thomas Armstrong &c in the due execution of the premisses, they paying unto us, our heirs, and successors yearly, during the abovesaid terme, the sume of sixteen pound thirteen shilling and fourpence of lawfull money of England, in two payments, viz., on the twenty-fourth of June and twenty-fifth of December, and if any part thereof be not paid within thirty days after it becomes due, these letters pattents to be void and of no effect. The said Sir Thomas Armstrong, &c to have all the proffits ariseing from the said coynage and to be at any time ready to deliver one and twenty shillings, in the said tokens, for every twenty shillings in silver, and to repay twenty shillings in currant sterling money for every twenty-one shillings of the said tokens as shall be brought to them. Convenient quantities of the said tokens to be sent to as many cities, towns and other places, in Ireland, as they shall think fitt. In witness whereof &c witness ourself at Westminster, the fourteenth of December, in the twelfth yeare of our raigne.

By the King,

Child.

1680 A.D.

Assignment of Sir Thomas Armstrong's Patent by his representatives to John Knox.

This indenture, made the seventeenth day of June, in the thirty-second of King Charles II &c between Sir Thomas Armstrong, knight &c George Legg Esq &c, the right honourable Richard Earl of Arran, and Sir Nicholas Armourer, knight &c on the one part, and John Knox, of the city of Dublin alderman, of the other part. Whereas

the said Sir Thomas Armstrong knight, deceased (*sic*), and the said George Legg, did obtain from his majesty a reference to James duke of Ormond, lord lieutenant of Ireland, for renewing a patent formerly granted to the[1] said Armstrong for making farthing tokens in Ireland. And whereas the said Thomas Armstrong, and George Legg, by writing under their hands and seals, the twentyninth of November 1678, did constitute &c Richard Earl of Arran and Sir Nicholas Armourer, their attorneys &c to get the said reference and obtain from the Duke of Ormond, allowance for passing such new grant for the making farthing tokens and halfpence, and issuing the same in Ireland and surrendering the former patent, and to treat and conclude with any person, for their interest in the said new patent (when past) by agreement either by yearly income, rent, or for such sum of money as they their said attorneys shall think fit, and to perfect &c such deed &c as shall be requisite &c in consideration of which care &c the said Armstrong and Legg, did grant to the said Earl of Arran and Nicholas Armourer, one third part of all the profits of such letters patents, after deduction for all charges relating to the same &c And whereas his majesty by his letters patents &c of the eighteenth of May last past, hath given &c to the said Sir Thomas Armstrong, and colonel George Legg, &c full and absolute power &c during the tearme therein mentioned to make &c such quantities of halfpence of copper &c (recites the whole patent). Now this indenture witnesseth, that the said Sir Thomas Armstrong, George Legg, Richard Earl of Arran, and Sir Nicholas Armorer, in consideration of the sum of one thousand five hundred pounds of lawfull money &c well and truly paid &c by the said John Knox, have granted and set over &c to the said John Knox, &c all such power &c to coin, stamp, disperse, utter &c of copper half-pence within the kingdom of Ireland as are granted to them &c in and by the said recited letters patents, in as full &c manner &c as they &c might or could doe by the said letters patents, to have &c, all and singular the said powers &c receive &c all such profits &c as shall be made &c during the remainder of the said twenty-one years. And the said John Knox &c doth covenant &c during the said term to pay &c perform all the rents, reservations, &c. And the said Sir Thomas Armstrong &c for themselves &c do covenant, &c that they will at any time hereafter, during the said term at the cost of the said John Knox, procure as often as shall be necessary from the chief governor of Ireland, a proclamation for the better execution of the said letters patents, and the passing of the said halfpenny tokens, and suppressing

[1] Probably the words "late father of" are here omitted and the word "deceased" wrongly inserted above.

all other tokens, instruments, &c. And that if the said Armstrong, &c doe, within the said term, procure any other patent &c for coining any other farthing, halfpenny or penny that the said John Knox &c shall have the full benefit thereof, during the said term without any fine &c in witness thereof &c.

1685 A.D.

Confirmation Grant by James II. of the last mentioned Patent.

Most reverend father in God, and right trusty and right well-beloved cousin and councillor, we greete you well. Whereas the late king &c., did by letters patent &c., of the eighteenth of May 1680 &c., grant unto Colonel Legg, now Lord Dartmouth, and Sir Thomas Armstrong, &c., power &c., to make and utter such a quantity of copper half-pence, as might be issued in Ireland, within the term of twenty-one years &c. (recites the conditions of the grant). And whereas John Knox of Dublin, alderman and assignee &c. hath, as we are informed, been at great expence in providing copper &c., and has humbly prayed us that we would accept of a surrender of the former patent and to grant him a new one, for the term unexpired of the former grant, under the same yearly rent, restrictions &c., as in the said former patents, with this alteration only of the figure of our head to be stamped on the one side, and the inscription of JACOBUS SECUNDUS DEI GRATIA MAGNAE BRITANIAE FRANCIAE ET HIBERNIAE REX. And we having referred the consideration of this matter to our high treasurer of England, and seen his report, together with the report, of our attorney general of Ireland, in the following words &c. Our will and pleasure is, and we doe hereby require you &c., that you give such orders &c., for accepting a surrender of the former patents &c., and that thereupon you cause new letters patents to be forthwith passed under the great seale of that our kingdom, and with the advice of some our council learned in the law there, containing an effectual grant from us unto the said John Knox of a free licence from us that he the said John Knox, by himself may during the number of years granted by the former patents yet unexpired, make such quantity of half-pence of copper, as may be issued in that our realme, as our lawful coyne &c. See the abstract of the patent. Given at our court at Whitehall, the twenty third day of October, 1685, in the first year of our reign,

By his majesty's command,

Sunderland.

1685 A.D.

Patent from James II. to John Knox.

James the second, &c. To all, &c. Whereas the late King etc., did by letters patents bearing the date the eighteenth of May in the thirty-second year of his reign did grant unto Colonel George Legg, now Lord Dartmouth, and Sir Thomas Armstrong, deceased, full power to coin copper half-pence for the use of this our kingdom of Ireland. And whereas there is a great want of small coyne for exchange, and John Knox, alderman, and now lord-mayor of the city of Dublin, assignee to the said Lord Dartmouth and Sir Thomas Armstrong, hath been at great expence in providing copper and other materials for the making of the said half-pence, and hath surrendered the former patent; we do by these our letters patents grant unto the said John Knox, his executors, administrators and assigns, full power during the remainder of the term granted by the above said former patent to coyn such quantitie of copper half-pence as he can conveniently issue among our subjects of the said kingdom. The said half-pence to be made of copper by engines, having on one side the figure of effigies of our head, and on the other side, the stamp of an harp crowned, and with this inscription round before and on the reverse JACOBUS SECUNDUS DEI GRATIA MAGNAE BRITTANIAE FRANCIAE ET HIBERNIAE REX. Which copper half-pence we do hereby for us, our heirs and successors, ordayne shall pass and be generally used between man and man as tokens, for the value of half-pence, within this kingdom, forbidding all other persons whatsoever to make, counterfeit, or import, such copper half-pence or engines under paine of forfeiture thereof, or such other punishment as the law may inflict. All officers, justices, and magistrates ordered to be aiding and assisting the said John Knox in the due execution of the premisses he paying unto us &c the sum of sixteen pounds thirteen shillings and fourpence, in two payments &c and that he shall have all the proffits ariseing from the said coynage, and to be ready at any time to deliver the sum of twenty shillings of the said copper half-pence for every twenty shillings in sterling money, which any of our subjects of Ireland shall be willing to give or disburse for the same, and to repay twenty shillings in sterling money for every twenty shillings of the said copper half-pence as shall be brought to him. Convenient quantities of the said half-pence to be sent to as many cities, towns and other places, in

Ireland, as he shall think fitt. Witness our aforesaid lords justices at Dublin, the twenty-ninth day of December, in the first year of our raigne.

Domville.

1689 A.D.

Proclamation of James II. concerning the Gun-money.

Whereas, for remedy of the present scarcity of money in this our kingdom, and that our standing forces may be the better paid and subsisted, and that our subjects of this realm may be the better enabled to pay and discharge the taxes, excise, customs, rents, and other debts and duties, which are or shall be hereafter payable to us; we have ordered a certain quantity of copper and brass money to be coyned to pass currant in this our kingdom during our pleasure, in six penny pieces; each piece having on one side the effigies or figure of our head, with this inscription round. JACOBUS II DEI GRATIA, and upon the other side, the stamp or impression of cross-sceptres and a crown between J.R. with VI above, the month wherein they are coyned below, with this inscription round, MAG. BRIT. FRAN. & HIBER. REX. 1689, and fringed round, each of the said pieces to be of the metal of copper and brass; all which pieces of money we have thought fit, by the advice of our privy council, to make currant money within this our kingdom. We do therefore hereby publish and declare, by the advice aforesaid, that the said pieces of copper and brass coyned, or hereafter to be coyned by our said order marked and stampt as aforesaid, shall pass during our pleasure, as currant money amongst all our subjects within our realm, and in all payments to be made either to us, or from us, or to or from any of our subjects within this kingdom, according to the rates following; that is to say, each of the said pieces called six penny pieces, marked and stamped as aforesaid, to pass for six pence; the said pieces to pass at the rates aforesaid, for the interest which hereafter shall fall due for such mortgages and debts due by records, bills, bonds, or obligations, and likewise for any of the said principal debts so secured where the debtor or his goods are, or shall be taken in execution for the same, and we do hereby strictly charge and command all and every of our subjects of this kingdome to take and receive in all payments to be made to them (excepting as aforesaid) the said pieces of money according to the rates aforesaid, hereby declaring that such of our subjects within this kingdom as shall refuse the said pieces of copper and brass money at the rates

aforesaid (excepting as aforesaid) being tendered to them for payment, shall be punished according to the utmost rigour of the law, as contemners of our royal prerogative and command. Provided always, that this our proclamation shall not be construed, to oblige any merchant or merchants, importing any goods into this kingdom, to receive upon the first sale of such goods so imported, any of the said copper or brass money: And whereas we have caused the said copper and brass money to be made currant money for present necessity, and therefore do not intend that the same shall continue for any long time. We do, by this our royal proclamation, promise and engage to all our subjects here that as soon as the said money shall be decried and made null, that we shall thereupon receive from all and every our subjects within this kingdom such proportion of the said money as shall be, and remain in their respective hands at the time the same shall be so decried and made null; and at the same time either allow for the same to them the value thereof, at the rates aforesaid, out of what rent, duties or debts, they respectively shall owe to us, or to make them full satisfaction for the same according to the rates aforesaid, in gold or silver of the currant coyne of this kingdom. Given at our court, at Dublin-castle, the eighteenth day of June, 1689, and in the fifth year of our reign.

By the King.

1689 A.D.

A second Proclamation of James II. concerning the Gun-money.

Whereas, for remedy, of the present scarcity of money, in this our kingdom, and that our standing forces may be the better paid and subsisted, and that our subjects of this realm may be the better enabled to pay and discharge the taxes, excise, customs, rents, and other debts and duties, which are or shall be hereafter payable to us; we have ordered a certain quantity of copper and brass money to be coyned and pass as currant in this our kingdom during our pleasure, in six penny pieces; which several pieces we have, by our proclamation, commanded to pass for currant money within this kingdom. And whereas, since the date of the said proclamation, we have ordered a further quantity of copper and brass money to be coyned to pass currant in this our kingdom, during our pleasure in twelve penny pieces and half-crown pieces; each piece of the said twelve penny pieces having on one side the effigies or figure of our head, with this inscription round, JACOBUS II DEI GRATIA,

and upon the other side, the stamp or impression of cross-sceptres and a crown between J. R. with XII above, the month wherein they are coyned below with this inscription round, MAG. BRIT. FRAN. & HIBER. REX 1689, and fringed round, and each of the said half-crown pieces to be marked and stamped as the said twelve penny pieces, only that on the said half-crown pieces instead of XII shall be marked XXX, each of the pieces to be of the metal of copper and brass. All which pieces of money we have thought fit by the advice of our privy-council, to make current money within this our kingdom. We do therefore hereby publish and declare, by the advice aforesaid, that the said pieces of copper and brass coyned, or hereafter to be coyned by our said order, marked and stamped as aforesaid, shall pass during our pleasure, as currant money amongst all our subjects within this realm, and in all payments to be made either to us or from us or to or from any of our subjects within this kingdom, according to the rates following; that is to say, each of the said pieces called twelve-penny pieces marked and stamped as aforesaid, to pass for twelve pence; and each of the pieces of the said pieces called half-crown pieces to pass for two shillings and sixpence; the said pieces to pass at the rates aforesaid in all payments excepting money left in trust or keeping with any person, and excepting mortgages, and debts now due by records, bills, bonds, or obligations; and that the same shall also pass currant at the rates aforesaid, for the interest which hereafter shall fall due for such mortgages and debts, due by records, bills, bonds or obligations, and likewise for any of the said principal debts, due so secured, where the debtor or his goods are, or shall be taken in execution for the same; and we do hereby strictly charge and command all and every of our subjects of this kingdome, to take and receive in all payments to be made (excepting as aforesaid) the said several pieces of money according to the rates aforesaid, hereby declaring, that such of our subjects within this kingdom, as shall refuse to receive the said several pieces of copper and brass money at the rates aforesaid (excepting as aforesaid) being tendered to them for payment shall be punished according to the utmost rigour of the law, as contemners of our royal prerogative and commands. And we do hereby publish and declare, that if any person or persons whatsoever will presume to counterfeit the said money, or any of the said pieces, that he or they, so offending, shall be proceeded against as persons guilty of high-treason; and in case any person or persons whatsoever, will discover any such offender or offenders so as he or they be brought to condign punishment, we do hereby engage that such discoverer

or discoverers shall have for their recompense the one moiety of the estate, real and personal, of the same person or persons that shall be so found guilty of counterfeiting the said money or coyne, provided the value of the said estate will amount to forty pounds sterling or more, and if the said estate be under forty pounds, such discoverer or discoverers shall have for their service herein the sum of twenty pounds sterling. As for the better prevention of counterfeiting the sayd coyn, we do hereby strictly charge and command all persons whatsoever, that they or any of them do not presume to import into any part of this realm any of the said coyn, or of the said copper and brass money, under the highest penalty, forfeiture, or confiscation, that any law in this kingdom can allow or warrant; and if any person or persons shall at any time hereafter discover the importing of the said coyn into this realm, we do hereby engage that such person or persons so discovering shall have the full moiety of all forfeitures and confiscation that shall accrew to us, by reason of the said importation; and that there may be no pretence for the importing of any of the said coyn into this kingdom, we do hereby strictly charge and command all persons whatsoever that they or any of them do not presume to export any of the said coyn or pieces of copper and brass money into any other country whatsoever, hereby declaring, that whosoever shall offend herein, shall be prosecuted according to the utmost rigour of the law: And whereas by the said former proclamation for making the said sixpenny pieces currant within this kingdom, it is provided, that we shall not be obliged to take the said six penny pieces in the payment of the duty payable to us for foreign commodities imported into this kingdom; and that the first seller of such foreign goods or commodities, shall not be obliged to take the said sixpenny pieces in any payment to be made to him on such sale. We do hereby revoke the said clauses, and that the remaining part of the said proclamation shall be and remain in full force and that the said sixpenny pieces shall be taken in all payments, in such manner and under the same exceptions as the twelve penny pieces and the said half crown pieces, are made currant by these presents; and whereas we have caused the said copper and brass money to be made currant money for present necessity, and therefore do not intend that the same shall continue for any long time. We do by this our royal proclamation promise and engage to all our subjects here, that as soon as the said money shall be decried and made null, that we shall thereupon receive from all and every our subjects within this kingdom such proportion of the said money as shall be,

and remain in their respective hands at the time the same shall be decried and made void ; and at the same time either allow for the same to them the value thereof at the rates aforesaid, out of what rents, customs, excise, duties or debts, they respectively shall owe to us, or make them full satisfaction for the same according to the rates aforesaid, in gold or silver of the currant coyne of this kingdom. Given at our court at our castle of Dublin this twenty-seventh day June 1689, and in the fifth year of our reign.

1689 A.D.

A third Proclamation of James II. concerning the Gun-money.

Our will and pleasure is, that you forthwith goe to the several place or places where stamps, presses or coyning mills are, which with the several instruments belonging to the coynage you are to secure, under your respective seales, in some safe place soe as none can come at or meddle with the same without your consent ; as also to secure, in the same manner, any quantity of brass or copper casten, rounded or fitted to the mill, and if you shall find any persons at work at the said mills for our service, coyning brass or copper money, any two of you shall remain beside the said workmen to see that what is coyned bee duely aplyed to our use and noe other, and at your leaving off the said coynage you are to secure the houses, tooles, and instruments as is abovesaid, taking an exact account of the pieces coyned, and securing them in the like manner ; you shall call to the officer of our guard for any assistance that may be necessary ; for doing all which this shall bee your warrant. Given at our court at Dublin-castle, this nineteenth day of June, 1689, and in the fifth year of our reign.

1689 A.D.

Order of James II. concerning the Gun-money.

Our will and pleasure is, that you forthwith deliver to the commissioners of the mint those two brass canons now lying in the court of this our castle marked &c weighing &c and for soe doeing this shall be your warrant. Given at our court at Dublin-castle, this eleventh day of July, 1689, and in the fifth year of our reign.

To our trusty and wel-beloved cozen and counseler Justin Lord Viscount Mount Cashel, master general of our ordnance.

1689 A.D.

Letter concerning the Gun-money.

Sir,

We have great occasion for his majesty's use to procure as much hamered or forged copper and brass as your parts can afford, and judging by the decay of trade and desolation of the country, that there may bee a great deale in your district or port, we desire you, by yourself and officers, to inform us presently what quantity you may bee able to furnish us with, and what the currant prices are of each. And whatever you can gett, buy at the best rates you can, and as soon as you have four or five hundred weight, pray send it to us the commissioners of his majesty's mint, at the mint-house in Capel-street, Dublin, and what you pay shall bee allowed you in your accounts at the custom house, so doing you'll oblige,

Yours &c.

1689 A.D.

Letter concerning the gun-money.

Waterford, Dec the 10th 1689.

I send you by Thomas Commins carryer the quantities of brass copper and battery[1] underwritten; you were pleased to order my buying of pewter, upon which I desired to know what I must give, to which I had no answer. I likewise advised that I had a parcell of new and ould pewter belonging to absentees, and desired to know if you would have it sent, &c

I am,

your honours most humble servant

Gre Rice.

To the chiefe commissioners of
his majesties mint.

1689 A.D.

Letter concerning the gun-money.

Limerick Jan the 4th 1689.

Sir,

Last Tuesday, the carriages parted from hence with six thousand six hundred weight of gunn mettle, six hundred a quarter and two

[1] Battery = any metal reduced by hammering.

pounds of fine pewter, and a thousand weight of steele, they will be eleven or twelve days a goeing because the roads are very deep—The pewter cost ten pence per pound, and steele six pence. You may expect very soone a farther supply of mettle for I have made an agreement with two eminent dealers from Corke who have five or six thousand weight of copper and brass which they are to send here. I must have an order from the lords of the treasury, for sending it to your mint; there are foure or five broken bells in the country, which I can have if you send an order for seizing them for the king's use; there is an useless cannon at Gallway, and one or two at Kingsaile; I forgot to send you some of our coyne as you desired, by the next occasion I will not faile; I cannot buy fine pewter now under eleven or twelve pence the pound, for they say that you give fourteen or fifteen pence in Dublin, the rates for carriage from hence to Dublin is eight shillings the hundred weight. I rest your humble servant,

Wat Plunkett

To John Trindar Esq.

1689 A.D.

Letter concerning the gun-money.

Athlone, February the 9th 1689.

This day the mettall was weighed ("35.0.24lb by numb. at the bottom of this letter") and delivered to the carmen mentioned in the last letter, there is five hundred weight for the last gun they could not carry, and some brass that I have bought, and some brass belonging to absentees, which will be here in a few days and shall be sent by the first carrs that I can procure.

I am, your honour's most humble servant,

Chr. Nicholson.

To the honourable J. Trindar Esq.,
chief commissioner of his majesties
mint.

1689 A D.

Order concerning the gun-money.

It is his majesty's pleasure that one six pence in the pound be given in copper for all silver money or gold that shall be brought to the mint, the silver being given in to the currant value and full

weight, all such silver as come in or gold, is to be attested by two commissioners of the second class, or by one of them and one of the wardens. His Majesty will give his further orders under his hand; in the meantime you are to proceed to take what money comes in.

1689 A.D.

Order concerning the gun-money.

Our will and pleasure is, that you cause to be coyned for our use severall pieces of coyne of two sorts to pass currant in this our kingdom of Ireland; the one about the biggness of a shilling to be made of white mix'd mettall haveing on one side the effigies or figure of our head, with this inscription round about it, JACOBUS II'DUS DEI GRATIA, and on the other side haveing a piece of prince's mettall fix'd in the middle with stamp or impression of the harpe and crowne and this inscription round about it, MAG. BRI. FRA. ET. HIB. REX, with the year of our Lord; which piece is to pass for a penny; and the other piece about the biggness of a sixpence to be made of the like mettall and stampt on both sides, in like manner, and with the inscription aforesaid and to pass for a half-penny, hereby giveing you full power and authority to coyne the said two pieces from time to time till further order. Given at our court at Dublin castle, the first day of March, 1689, and in the sixth year of our raigne.

To our trusty and well beloved the commissioners of our mint in our kingdom of Ireland.

1690 A.D.

A fourth Proclamation of James II. concerning the gun-money.

Whereas for remedy of the present scarcity of pence and halfpence in this our kingdom, we have ordered a certain quantity of mixed money to be coyned to pass currant in this our realme, dureing our pleasure in penny pieces and half penny pieces; each piece of the said penny pieces about the bigness of one shilling, having on one side the effigies or figure of our head, with this inscription round, JACOBUS SECUNDUS DEI GRATIA; and upon the other side, having a piece of prince's metal fixed in the middle, with the stamp

or impression of the harp and crown, and this inscription round, MAG. BR. FRA. ET HIB. REX, with the year of our Lord, and each of the said half penny pieces about the bigness of a six-pence to be marked and stamped as the said penny pieces, the said pieces to be of white mixed metal; all which pieces of money we have thought fit, by the advice of our privy council, to make currant money within this our kingdom. We do therefore hereby publish and declare, by the advice aforesaid, that the said pieces of white mixed metal coyned, or hereafter to be coyned by our said order marked and stamped as aforesaid, shall pass during our pleasure, as currant money, amongst all our subjects within this our realm, and in all payments whatsoever to be made either to us, or from us, or to or from any of our subjects within this kingdom, according to the rates following; that is to say, each of the said pieces called penny pieces, marked and stamped as aforesaid, to pass for one penny, the said pieces called half-penny pieces to pass for one half-penny, the said pieces to pass at the rates aforesaid in all payments whatsoever: And we do hereby strictly charge and command all and every of our subjects of this kingdom, to take and receive in all payments to be made to them, the said several pieces of money according to the rates aforesaid, hereby declaring that such of our subjects within this kingdom, as shall refuse to receive the said several pieces of mixed money at the rates aforesaid, being tendered to them for payment, shall be punished according to the utmost rigour of the law as contemners of our royal prerogative and command: And whereas we have caused the said mixed money to be made currant for present necessity, and therefore we do not intend that the same shall continue for any long time; we do by this our royal proclamation promise and engage to all our subjects here, that as soon as the said money shall be and remain in their respective hands, at the time the same shall be decried and made void, and at the same time either allow for the same to them the value thereof at the rates aforesaid, out of what rents, duties, or debts they respectively shall owe unto us, or make them full satisfaction for the same according to the rates aforesaid, in gold or silver of the currant coyn of this kingdom. Given at our court at Dublin castle, the twenty-eighth day of March, 1690, and in the sixth year of our reign.

1690 A.D.

A fifth Proclamation of James II. concerning the gun-money.

Whereas for remedy of the present scarcity of money in this our kingdom, and that our standing forces may be the better paid, and our

subjects of this realm the better enabled to pay and discharge the taxes excise, customs, rents, and other debts and duties which are or shall be hereafter payable to us, we have ordered a certain quantity of white mixed metal to be coyned in crown-pieces, each piece of the said crown-pieces having on the one side our effigies or figure on horseback, with this inscription round, Jac. II. Dei Gra. Mag. Brit. Fra. & Hib. Rex: And on the other side having a piece of prince's metal fixed in the middle, with the stamp or impression of the crown surrounded with the arms of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, with this inscription round, Christo victore triumpho, anno Dom. 1690; and round about the edge of each such piece having this inscription, Melioris tessera fati, anno regni sexto: All which pieces of money so coyned, we have thought fit, by the advice of our privy council, to make current money within this our kingdom. We do therefore hereby publish and declare, by the advice aforesaid, that the said pieces of mixed white metal coyned or hereafter to be coyned by our said order, marked and stamped as aforesaid, to pass for five shillings in all payments whatsoever. And we do hereby strictly charge and command all and every of our subjects of this kingdom to take and receive in all payments to be made to them, the said several pieces of money according to the rate aforesaid; hereby declaring, that such of our subjects within this kingdom, as shall refuse to receive the said several pieces of money according to the said rate, being tendered to them for payment, shall be punished according to the utmost rigour of the law, as contemners of our royal prerogative and command. And we do hereby further publish and declare, that if any person or persons whatsoever will presume to counterfeit the said money or any of the said pieces, that he or they so offending, shall be proceeded against as guilty of high treason. And in case any person or persons whatsoever will discover any such offender or offenders, so as he or they be brought to condign punishment, we do hereby engage, that such discoverer or discoverers shall have for a recompence, at his or their election, either the sum of twenty pounds sterling for their service herein, or the one moiety of the state, real and personal, of the person or persons that shall be found guilty of counterfeiting the said money or coyn: And for the better prevention of counterfeiting the said coyn, we do hereby strictly charge and command all persons whatsoever, that they or any of them, do not presume either to import, into any part of this realm, or export into any other country whatsoever, any of the said coyn or money of white mixed metal under the highest penalty, forfeiture, or confiscation that any law in this kingdom can warrant or allow: And if any person or persons shall, at any time hereafter, discover the importing of any

of the said coyn into this realm, or the exporting thereof into any other country, we do hereby engage that such person or persons so discovering, shall have the full moyety of all forfeiture and confiscation that shall accrew unto us, by reason of such importation or exportation. And whereas we have thought fit, by publick convenience, to reduce the twelve penny pieces and half-crown pieces of copper and brass money hereafter to be coyned to a lesser weight than formerly, without any alteration of the impressions or superscriptions, and yet the said pieces to continue at the same value, that the like pieces passed at hitherto we do hereby publish and declare, by the advice aforesaid, that the said twelve penny pieces, and half-crown pieces hereafter to be coyned, shall pass at the same value with the like pieces of copper and brass money formerly coyned, though not of equal weight. And whereas we have caused the said several sorts of coyn of copper and brass, and white mixed metal, to be made current money for present necessity, and therefore do not intend that the same shall continue for any long time; we do by this our royal proclamation promise and engage to all our loving subjects here, that as soon as the said money shall be decried and made null, we shall thereupon receive from all and every of our subjects within this kingdom such proportion of the said money as shall be and remain in their respective hands, at the time the same shall be decried and made void, and at the same time either allow to them the value thereof, at the rates aforesaid out of what rents, customs, excise, debts or duties, they respectively shall owe to us, or make them full satisfaction for the same according to the said rates, in gold or silver of the currant coyn of this kingdom. Given at our court at Dublin-castle, the twenty-first day of April, 1690.

1690 A.D.

A sixth Proclamation of James II. concerning the Gun-money.

Whereas we have for weighty reasons, with the advice of our privy council, thought fit to call in all the half-crown pieces of copper and brass money, which appear by the stamp upon them to have been coyned within this our kingdom, before the month of May last, yet so as our loving subjects, who have such money in their hands, may thereby suffer no loss, but receive other current money in exchange thereof from the commissioners of our mint; our will and pleasure is, and we do hereby, with the advice aforesaid, order and declare, that no half-crown of copper and brass money, which hath been coyned before the

said month of May, shall pass or be current money in any payment within the city or county of the city of Dublin, from or after the last day of this present month of June, nor in any other part of the province of Leinster after the fifteenth day of July next, or in any other part of this our kingdom after the last day of July aforesaid ; and our further will and pleasure is, and we do hereby strictly charge and command the commissioners of our mint in our cities of Dublin and Limerick, to receive and exchange all such half-crown pieces as shall within the time aforesaid be brought into them, by paying to the persons that shall bring in the same, the like sum of other current money, and that without any delay or deduction whatsoever ; and for the ease of such persons as live in places far distant from the said cities of Dublin and Limerick, and have but small summs of the said money in their hands, we do require the several collectors and receivers of our revenue to exchange in like manner all such half-crowns as shall within the time aforesaid be brought into them ; and in case they have not money enough of ours in their hands to pay in exchange thereof, to give assignments for the same upon our receivers generals, who are hereby required to make present payment upon such assignements. Given at the court at the castle of Dublin, the fifteenth day of June, 1690, and in the sixth year of our reign.

1690 A.D.

A seventh Proclamation of James II. concerning the Gun-money.

Whereas for the more speedy supply of money to defray our present great and necessary expences, we have ordered a quantity of copper and brass to be coyned into crown pieces, each piece having on the one side our effigies or figure on horseback, with this inscription round, Jac II Dei Gra. Mag. Bri. Fra. & Hib. Rex, and on the other side the arms of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, with a crown in the middle and this inscription round, Christo victore triumpho, 1690, our will and pleasure is, and we do hereby, with the advice of our privy council, order and declare, that the said pieces of copper and brass so coyned or to be coyned by our said order mark'd and stamp'd as aforesaid, shall during our pleasure pass as currant and lawfull money amongst all our subjects within this realme of Ireland, and likewise in all payments to be made to us, or from us, or from any of our subjects within this kingdom, according to the rates following, that is to say, each of the said pieces to pass for five shillings in all payments

whatsoever, hereby strictly charging and commanding all our subjects within this our kingdom, to take and receive the said pieces, at the rate aforesaid, in all payments to be made to them, and forbidding all persons whatsoever to counterfeit the same, upon pain of being proceeded against as persons guilty of high treason. And we do by this our royal proclamation promise and engage, that whensoever the said money shall be decried or called in, we shall thereupon receive from all persons such proportion thereof as shall then remain in their hands, and at the same time either allow them to value thereof, according to the rates aforesaid, out of what rents, duties or other debts they shall respectively owe unto us; or make them full satisfaction for the same according to the said rates, in coyne then currant in this our kingdom. Given at our court at our castle of Dublin, the fifteenth day of June, 1690, and in the sixth year of our reign.

1690 A.D.

Proclamation of William and Mary, reducing the current value of the Gun-money.

Having taken into our consideration the great oppressions and abuses committed by our enemies in this our kingdom of Ireland, by coyning and making currant brass money of copper or mixt metal, and raising the value thereof to an extravagant height, thereby to enable them to continue the war against us, and to impoverish our loving subjects in our said kingdom: We have therefore thought it necessary to put stop thereto, and to the end that such part of the said copper or mix't metal money, which remains in the hands of our said subjects, may not be wholly lost, we have thought fit to reduce the former value of the said copper money, to the value or standard of the like copper money formerly currant in this our kingdom, and accordingly we do hereby will and require all our subjects, within our said kingdom of Ireland, to take and receive all such copper or mix't metal money, lately coined in the mint erected in our city of Dublin, at the several and respective valuations following, and that the same do pass currant in exchange of money, and for all manner of goods and provisions whatsoever, and shall be received by all the officers and collectors of our customs, excise, or other branches of our revenue accordingly, viz.

The large half-crown of copper money, together with the crown pieces, of like metal and weight, lately stamp'd shall pass at one penny sterling.

The small half-crown of copper, lately stamp'd shall pass at three farthings.

The large copper shilling shall pass at a half-penny sterling.

The small shilling, lately stamped, and six-pence, shall pass each at one farthing.

And our will and pleasure is, that all such pewter pence, as have been lately coyned in the said mint, shall pass for half-pence, and all the half-pence of the like metal, stamped in the said mint, shall pass currant for farthings.

Which several sorts of coyn shall be deemed as currant money at the rates beforementioned, in all payments whatsoever within this our kingdom. Given at our camp by Dublin, this tenth day of July, 1690, in the second year of our reign.

1690–1 A.D.

Proclamation of William and Mary, prohibiting the Gun-money.

Whereas their majesties, by their royal proclamation, dated at their camp, by Dublin, the tenth of July, 1690, in the second year of their majesties reign, for reasons therein mentioned, did think fit to reduce certain coyns of brass, copper and mix't metal, which formerly were used in this kingdom, and imposed upon the people at vast rates, beyond and above the intrinsick value, to the several rates in the said proclamation mentioned, and did ordain that the said coyns and prices should be deemed and taken as current moneys in all payments at the several rates therein contained. Now forasmuch as it is found by experience, that the Irish who are in rebellion against their majesties, and have in their possession the whole or the far greater part of the said coin, do begin by secret and cunning ways to bring in the said coin into those parts of this kingdom under their majesties obedience, wherewith they or their agents not only furnish their majesties enemies with divers goods, provisions and commodities, for supplying their wants and necessities, which they could not any other ways obtain but by this means will bring such vast quantities of the said coin amongst their majesties good subjects, as in the end will turn to their majesties great damage. We therefore taking the premisses into our consideration, for providing a remedy against this growing evill, have thought fit hereby to order, publish and declare, that from and after the six and twentieth day of this inst., February, none of the said pieces or coyns in the said proclamation mentioned, shall be currant, or used in any payments between any

persons whatsoever ; nor shall any of their majesties loving subjects be compelled to take or receive the same as money at any rate or price whatsoever. Given at the council-chamber in Dublin, the twenty-third of February, 1690, and in the third year of their majesties reign.

1692 A.D.

Proclamation of William and Mary concerning the Coinage.

Whereas by several proclamations heretofore published in the reigns of the late kings, Charles and James the second, before his abdication, and of their present majesties, certain tynn and copper half-pence and farthings have been declared currant to pass in dealings between his majesties subjects according to the tenor of such proclamations, and whereas we the said Lord Lieutenant have pursuant to a power reserved unto us, in and by certain letters patents under the great seal of this kingdom made in the reign of the late king Charles the second, ordered and directed the persons interested in the said letters patents to cause the effigies of their majesties heads stamped in copper, on the one side, and on the other side the stamp or impress of an harpe crowned with this inscription, Carolus secundus Dei gratia Mag. Brit. Franc. & Hib. Rex. Gulielmus & Maria Dei gratia Mag. Brit. Franc. & Hib. Rex & Regina, round before and on the reverse side of all the copper half-pence and farthings which they shall hereafter make or issue, pursuant to the power to them derived under the said letters patents. And whereas certain persons either ill-affected to their majesties government, or mislead by false news and rumours, do refuse to receive the tynn and copper half-pence and farthings, as well those formerly authorized, as those lately made as aforesaid, to the great hindrance of trade and commerce, and hazard of the lives of multitudes of poor persons, who have no other money either for change or to buy necessaries for their families. For prevention whereof, and to undeceive all their majesties subjects who have been imposed upon by designing men to believe without any ground that the said several half-pence and farthings of tynn and copper as well those formerly as lately authorized or any of them, ought not to pass currant in payment in this kingdom as formerly they have and ought to do: we have thought fit to publish and declare, that neither the said copper or tynn half-pence or farthings have been or are by publick authority decry'd or disallow'd, but that they and every of

them ought to pass currant in payment in such manner as formerly and of late, by vertue of the said letters patents and proclamation, they did and ought to pass in this kingdom. Given at the council-chamber in Dublin, the seventeenth day of February, 1692.

1723 A.D.

Petition of the Irish Parliament against the coinage of William Wood.

We the Lords spiritual and temporal in parliament assembled, are under the utmost concern to find that our duty to your Majesty and our country, indispensibly calls upon us to acquaint your Majesty with the ill consequences, which will follow from a patent for coining Half-pence and Farthings to be utter'd in this kingdom, obtained under the great seal of Great Britain, by one William Wood, in a clandestine and unprecedented manner, and by a gross misrepresentation of the state of this kingdom. We are most humbly of opinion, that the diminution of your Majesty's revenue, the ruin of our trade, and the impoverishing of your people, must unavoidably attend this undertaking; and we beg leave to observe to your Majesty, that from the most exact enquiries and computations we have been able to make, it appears to us, that the gain to William Wood will be excessive, and the loss to this kingdom, by circulating this base coin, greater than this poor country is able to bear. With the greatest submission and deference to your Majesty's wisdom, we beg we may offer it as our humble opinion, that the reserving the coining of Half-pence and Farthings to the crown, and the not trusting it with any private person, body politick or corporate, will always be for your Majesty's service, and the good of your people in this kingdom.

In confidence, Sir, of your paternal care of the welfare of this country, we beseech your Majesty, that you will be pleased to extend that goodness and compassion to us, which has so eminently shew'd itself to all your other subjects, who have the happiness to live under your protection and government; and that you will give such directions as may effectually free us from the terrible apprehension we labour under from the patent granted to William Wood.

This Petition was forwarded on October 1st, 1723, by Walpole to Townshend at Hanover, where the court then was, to whom at the same time he wrote as follow :—

I was a good deal concerned till I saw what they did object, lest by inadvertency, or by being imposed upon, we might, out of a desire of doing the service, have let this slip through our fingers, liable to more objections than I was aware of. But most certainly this is not so. The resolution that makes the loss 150°/₀ is founded upon a computation that copper uncoined is worth 12*d.* a pound: now a pound of copper halfpence and farthings are by the patent to pass for 2/6; therefore the loss is 1/6. But a pound of copper prepared for the mint in London costs there 1/6; the charge of coining a pound of copper is at the mint 4*d.*; & I think the duty of a pound of copper coined, imported into Ireland, is a halfpenny per pound, beside the exchange, & which with all allowances, comes to 20°/₀, & all this is laid aside & the copper money valued at the supposed value of the rough Irish copper, which is much inferior to English copper.

1724 A.D.

Presentment of the Grand Jury of the Liberty of the Dean and Chapter of St. Patrick's, Dublin, against the coinage of William Wood.

"This day, the grand-jury, and the rest of the inhabitants of the liberty of the Dean and Chapter of St. Patrick's, Dublin, attended the dean of St. Patrick, with the following declaration, which they read to him, & desired that he would give orders to have it published.

"The Declaration of the Grand-Jury, & the rest of the inhabitants of the Liberty of the Dean & Chapter of St. Patrick's, Dublin.

"We, the grand-jury, and other inhabitants of the liberty of the Dean & Chapter of St. Patrick's, Dublin, whose names are under written, do unanimously declare and detirmine, that we never will receive or pay any of the halfpence or farthings already coined, or that shall hereafter be coined, by one William Wood, being not obliged by law to receive the same; because we are thoroughly convinced by the addresses of both houses of Parliament, as well as by that of his Majesty's most honourable privy-council, & by the universal opinion of the whole kingdom, that the currency of the said halfpence & farthings would soon deprive us of all our gold & silver, & therefore be of the most destructive consequence to the trade & wellfare of the nation."

1724 A.D.

The presentation of the Grand Jury of the county of the City of Dublin against the same.

Whereas several great quantities of base metal coin, commonly called Wood's half-pence, have been brought into the port of Dublin, & lodged in several houses of this city, with an intention to make them pass clandestinely among his Majesty's subjects of this kingdom notwithstanding the addresses of both houses of parliament, & the privy council, & the declarations of most of the corporations of this city, against the said coin: and whereas his Majesty has been graciously pleased to leave his loyal subjects of this kingdom at liberty to take or refuse the said half-pence.

We the Grand Jury of the county of the city of Dublin, this Michaelmas term, 1724, having entirely at heart his Majesty's interest, & the welfare of our country, & being thoroughly sensible of the great discouragements which trade hath suffered by the apprehensions of the said coin, whereof we have already felt the dismal effects; & that the currency thereof will enevitably tend to the great diminution of his Majesty's revenue, & the ruin of us & our posterity, do present all such persons as have attempted, or shall endeavour, by fraud, or otherwise, to impose the said halfpence upon us, contrary to his Majesty's most gracious intentions, as enemies to his Majesty's government, & to the safety, peace, & welfare of all his Majesty's subjects of this kingdom; whose affections have been so eminently distinguished by their zeal to his illustrious family, before his happy accession to the throne, & by their continued loyalty ever since.

As we do, with all just gratitude, acknowledge the services of all such patriots as have been eminently zealous for the interest of his Majesty & this country, in detecting the fraudulent imposition of the said Wood, & preventing the passing of his base coin; so we do, at the same time, declare our abhorrence & detestation of all reflections on his Majesty & his government; & that we are ready, with our lives & fortunes, to defend his most sacred Majesty against the Pretender, & all his Majesty's open & secret enemies, both at home & abroad.

Given under our hands, at the Grand Jury Chamber, this 28th of Nov., 1724.

George Forbes.	Philip Pearson.	Charles Lindon.
William Empson.	Thomas Robins.	Jerom Bredin.
David Tew.	Richard Dawson.	John Sican.
William Aston.	John Jones.	Anthony Brunton.
Stearn Tighe.	Thomas How.	Thomas Gaven.
Richard Walker.	Nathaniel Pearson.	Daniel Elwood.
Edmond French.	Joseph Nuttal.	John Brunet.
John Vereilles.	James Brown.	

1723 A.D.

The subjoined epigram and poem well represent the feelings of the populace with regard to Wood's money, and are of considerable interest, being as they are from the pen of Dean Swift.

EPIGRAM.

Carteret was welcomed to the shore
First with the brazen cannons roar ;
To meet him next the soldier comes,
With brazen trumps & brazen drums ;
Approaching near the town he hears
The brazen bells salute his ears ;
But when Wood's brass began to sound,
Guns, trumpets, drums, & bells were drown'd

PROMETHEUS.

I.

As when the squire & tinker Wood
Gravely consulting Ireland's good,
Together mingled in a mass
Smith's dust & copper, lead, & brass ;
The mixture thus by chemic art
United close in every part,
In fillets roll'd, or cut in pieces,
Appear'd like one continued species ;
And, by the forming engine struck,
On all the same impression struck,

So to confound this hated coin,
All parties and religions join ;
Whigs, Tories, Trimmers, Hanoverians,
Quakers, Conformists, Presbyterians,
Scotch, Irish, English, French, unite,
With equal interest, equal spite ;
Together mingled in a lump,
Do all in one opinion jump ;
And every one begins to find
The same impression on his mind.

A strange event! whom gold incites
To blood & quarrels, brass unites;
So goldsmiths say, the coarsest stuff
Will serve for solder well enough:
So by the kettle's loud alarm
The bees are gathered to the swarm:
So by the brazen trumpets bluster
Troops of all tongues & nations muster
And so the harp of Ireland brings
Whole crowds about its brazen strings.

II.

There is a chain let down from Jove,
But fasten'd to his throne above,
So strong that from the lower end,
They say all human things depend.
This chain, as ancient poets hold,
When Jove was young, was made of gold.

Prometheus once this chain purloin'd,
Dissolved, & into money coin'd;
Then whips me on a chain of brass;
(Venus was bribed to let it pass).

Now while this brazen chain prevail'd,
Jove saw that all devotion fail'd;
No temple to his godship raised;
No sacrifice on altars blazed;
In short, such dire confusion follow'd,
Earth must have been in chaos swallow'd,
Jove stood amazed; but looking round,
With much ado the cheat he found;
'Twas plain he could no longer hold
The world with any chain but gold;
And to the god of wealth, his brother,
Sent Mercury to get another.

Prometheus on a rock is laid,
Tied with the chain himself had made,
On icy Caucasus to shiver,
While vultures eat his growing liver.

III.

Ye powers of Grub-street make me able
Discreetly to apply this fable:
Say, who is to be understood
By that old thief Prometheus? Wood.
For Jove, it is not hard to guess him;
I mean his majesty, God bless him;
This thief and blacksmith was so bold,
He strove to steal that chain of gold,
Which links the subject to the king,
And change it for a brazen string.
But shure, if nothing else must pass
Between the king & us but brass,
Although the chain will never crack,
Yet our devotion may grow slack.

But Jove will soon convert, I hope,
This brazen chain into a rope;
With which Prometheus shall be tied,
And high in air for ever ride;
Where if we find his liver grows,
For want of vultures, we have crows.

An Epitaph on the late renowned Mr. *W – – d*, Halfpenny Projector (*alias* Copper-Captain), of *Ireland*, and Iron-Master General of *Great Britain*.

HERE lies MASTER *W – – d*,
Who did what he could
Whitehaven by Tricks to environ
But his glass is run out,
Who made such a rout,
With his Half-pence and making of Iron.

Fog's Journal, August 29, 1730.

1737 A.D.

Order of the Privy Council concerning the coinage.

Whereas the Lords Justices and Privy-council of this kingdom, in order to remedy the inconveniences and difficulties which affect the trade, and particularly, the linen manufactures of this kingdom,

and his majesty's revenues here, occasioned by the want of good copper money; applied to his grace Lionel Duke of Dorset, late lord lieuteuant general, and general governor of this kingdom, to lay the same before his majesty and obtain his royal licence for coyning fifty tuns of copper at his majesty's mint of London, under the regulations herein after mentioned And whereas his majesty, to answer the said proposals made by the lord Justices and Privy Council of this kingdom, with the concurrence of the said lord lieutenant general, and general governor of Ireland, and for remedying the said inconvenience, has been most graciously pleased to direct, that a proper agent should be appointed to contract for fifty tons of copper, to be delivered to the master of his majesty's mint in his tower of London to be coined for the service of this kingdom ; and also to authorise and command the master of his mint in his said tower of London, to receive from such person or persons, as his majesty's lieutenant general, and general governor, or lords justices of this kingdom, or any authorized by them or either of them, shall contract with for that purpose, fine copper, which when heated red-hot, will spread thin under the hammer without cracking, and out of the same to coin fifty tuns, or such greater quantity, as shall be necessary for this kingdom, one sixth in farthings, and five sixths in Half-pence, of such size, that fifty and two halfpence, or hundred and four farthings, may make a pound weight avoirdupois, excepting only such errors by accident, not by design, as may happen by the unequal size of the bars not exceeding the thirtieth part of a pound weight ; and that his majesty's effigies, with the inscription, Georgius II Rex. be stamped on one side of each piece and the Irish harp crowned on the other side, and over it the inscription, Hibernia, and under it the date of the year, with directions that the moniers of his majesty's said mint should not distribute any of the said money, before the same be duely assayed. And whereas his majesty has been also graciously pleased to direct, that the costs of the said fifty tuns of copper, and all charges attending the coining, and the transmitting the said halfpence and farthings, when coined, into this kingdom, should be paid by his majesty's vice-treasurer, receiver general and pay-master of this kingdom, his or their deputy for the time being ; and that whatever profit shall arise from the said coinage (after all necessary expences about it defrayed) shall go into publick revenue at large of this kingdom, to be employed as any part of the publick revenue unappropriated, is employed. And whereas there have been former copper coinages for this kingdom, under the patents of his majesty's royal predecessors, which copper money, is now currant

in this kingdom; his majesty has been also graciously pleased, in order to continue the currency of such copper money coined under those patents, together with such copper money as shall be coined for all service of this kingdom, in his majesty's tower of London indifferently, and without any preference of the one sort to the other, in discharge of what shall become due to his majesty: provided that no more be received in any one payment made to them, than twelve of those halfpence, or sixpence; and that if by those payments, the said collector or any of them shall have a redundancy of those half-pence, that the said collectors shall, and may pay to the respective officers of his majesty's army in this kingdom, or to such person as shall tender an Exchequer acquitance to the said collectors, for payment of his majesty's said army, any sum of the said half-pence, not exceeding five pounds in every hundred pounds, and so in proportion for a greater or lesser sum, and the like quantity to the officers of his majesty's revenue, who shall receive their salaries, from the respective collectors. And his majesty has been further pleased to signify his pleasure, that his said vice-treasurer, and receiver-general or his or their deputy, do issue out of his majesty's treasury in this kingdom, such new coined copper, or old copper money, as they shall receive, to such as are willing to take the same. And whereas their Excellencies the Lords Justices of this kingdom have, in obedience to his majesty's commands, given the necessary directions to the commissioners of his majesty's revenue here, for receiving and paying the said copper money; and to the deputy vice-treasurer of this kingdom for issuing the same: We therefore the Lords Justices and Council, do by this our proclamation, publish and declare his majesty's most gracious intentions for the service of this kingdom. And to prevent further imposition upon the traders and poor manufacturers of this kingdom, by the uttering of false and base brass money, commonly called Raps, we do hereby declare, that if any person or persons shall presume to make, vend, or utter any halfpence, or farthings, or other pieces of brass, copper, or other base metal, other than the copper money coined under the patents of his majesty's royal predecessors, and now current in this kingdom, and such copper money as is or shall be coined in his majesty's tower of London, for the service of this kingdom, or shall offer to counterfeit any of the said half-pence or farthings, such person or persons shall be prosecuted, for such their offences, with the utmost severity of the law, to deter others from committing the like crime. Given at the council-chamber, in Dublin, the sixth day of May, 1737.

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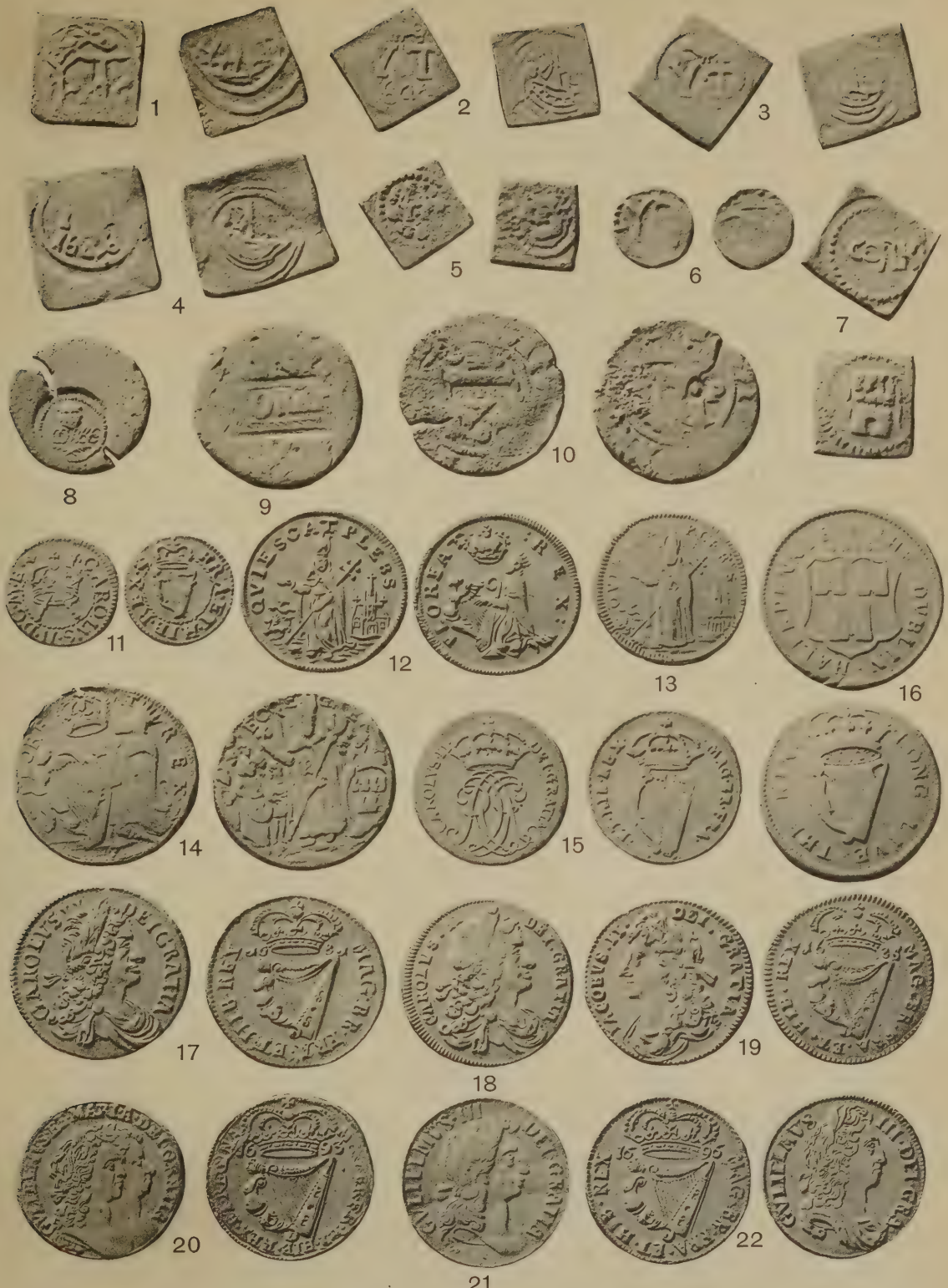

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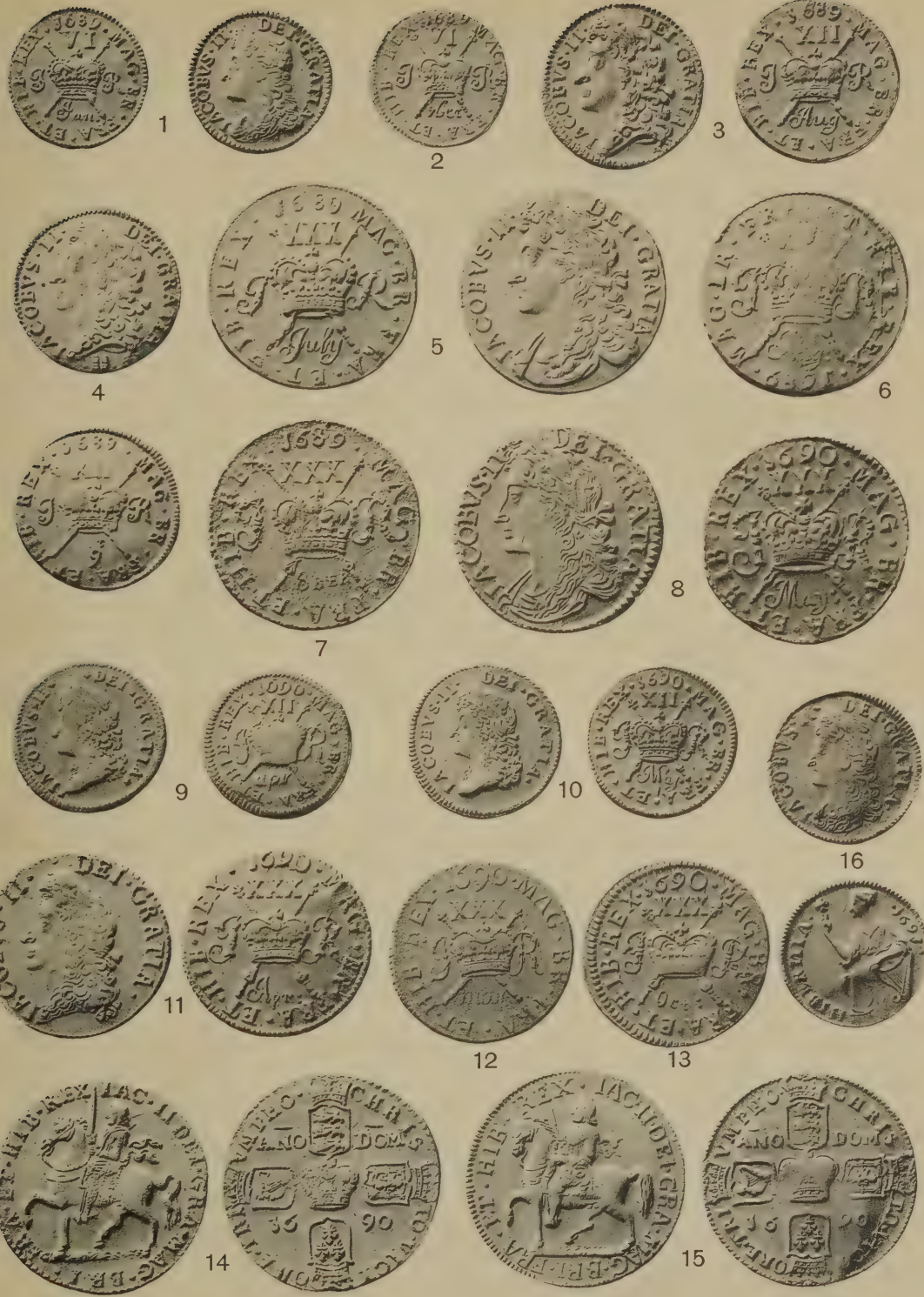

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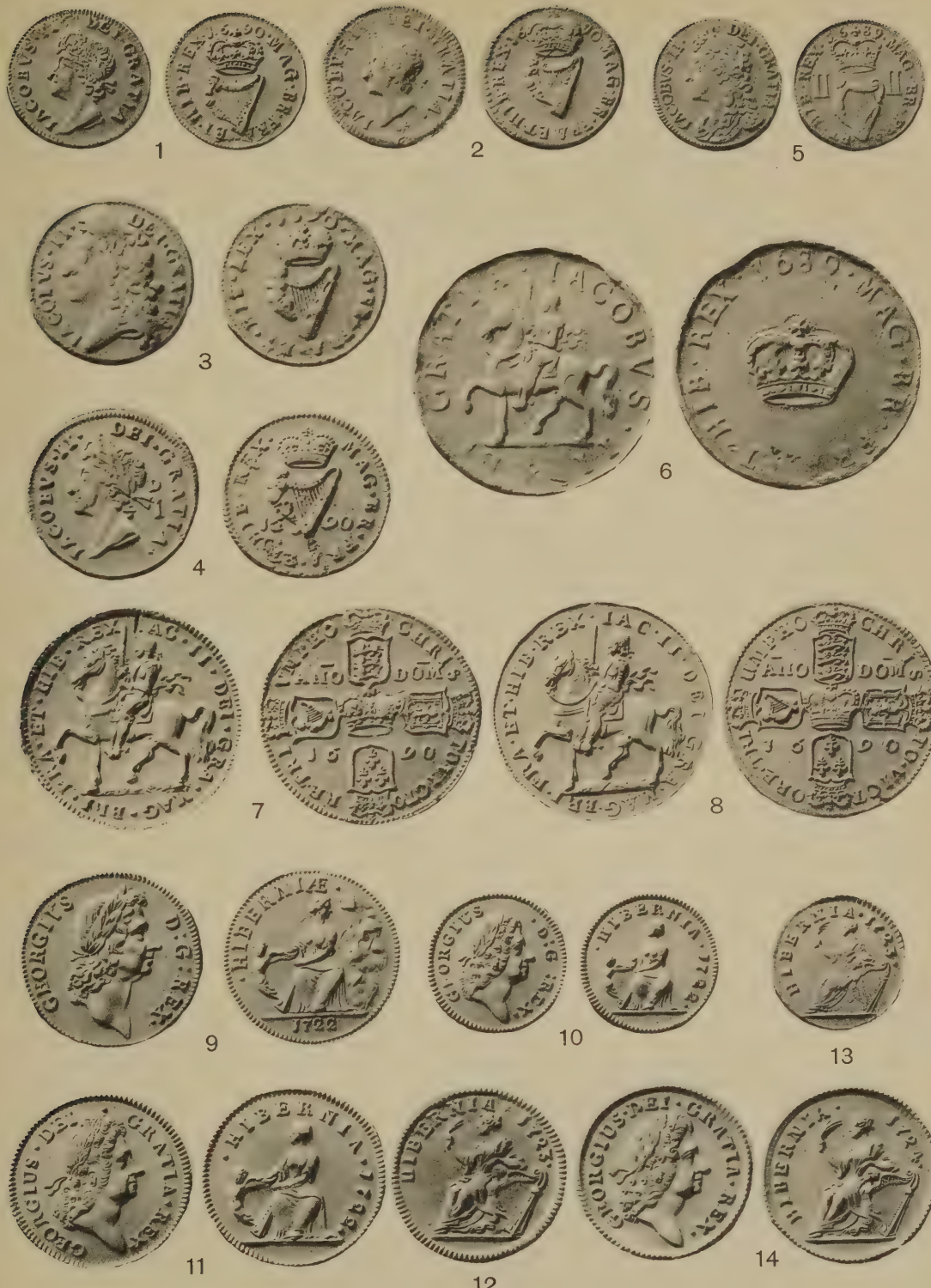

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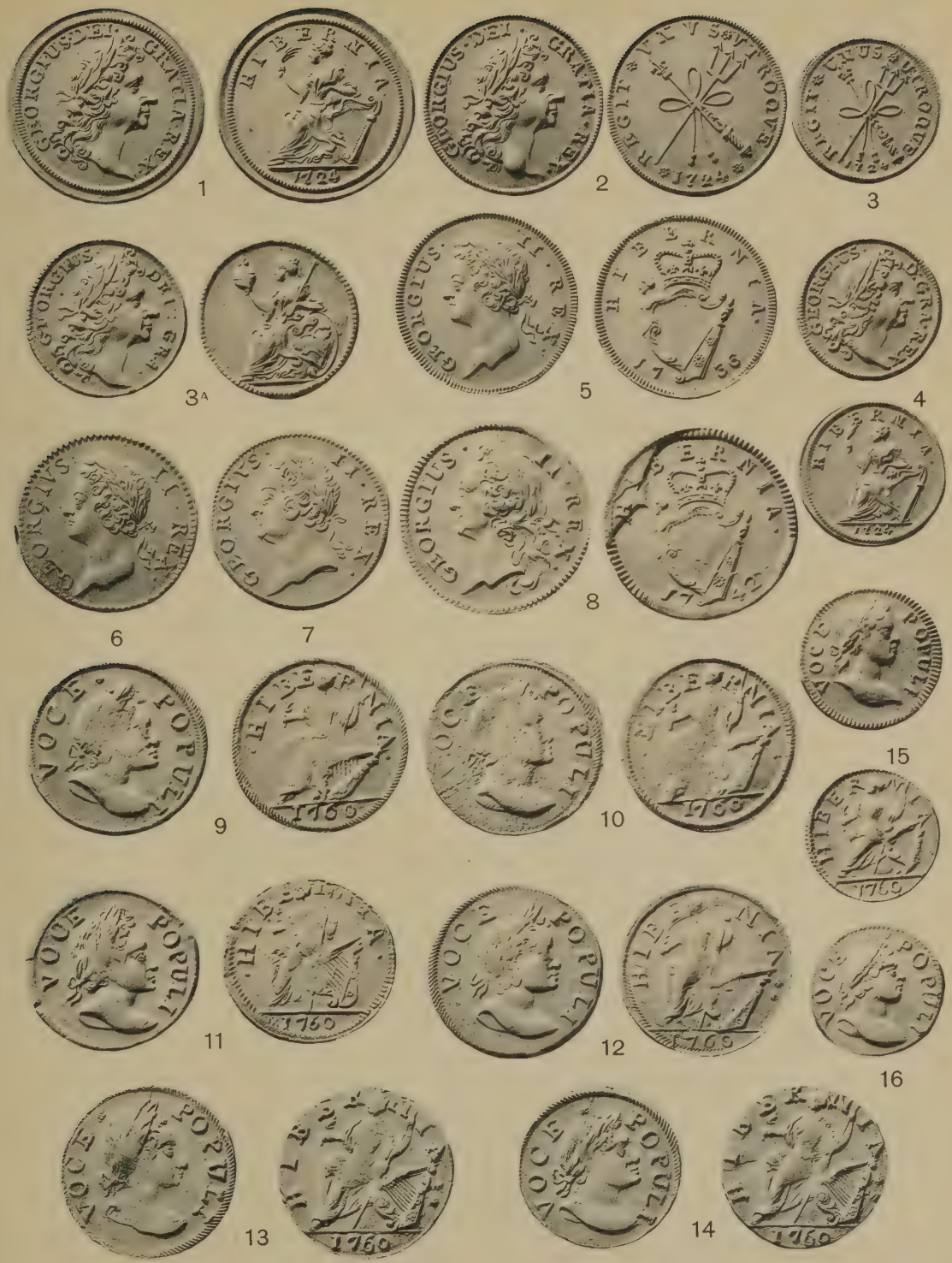
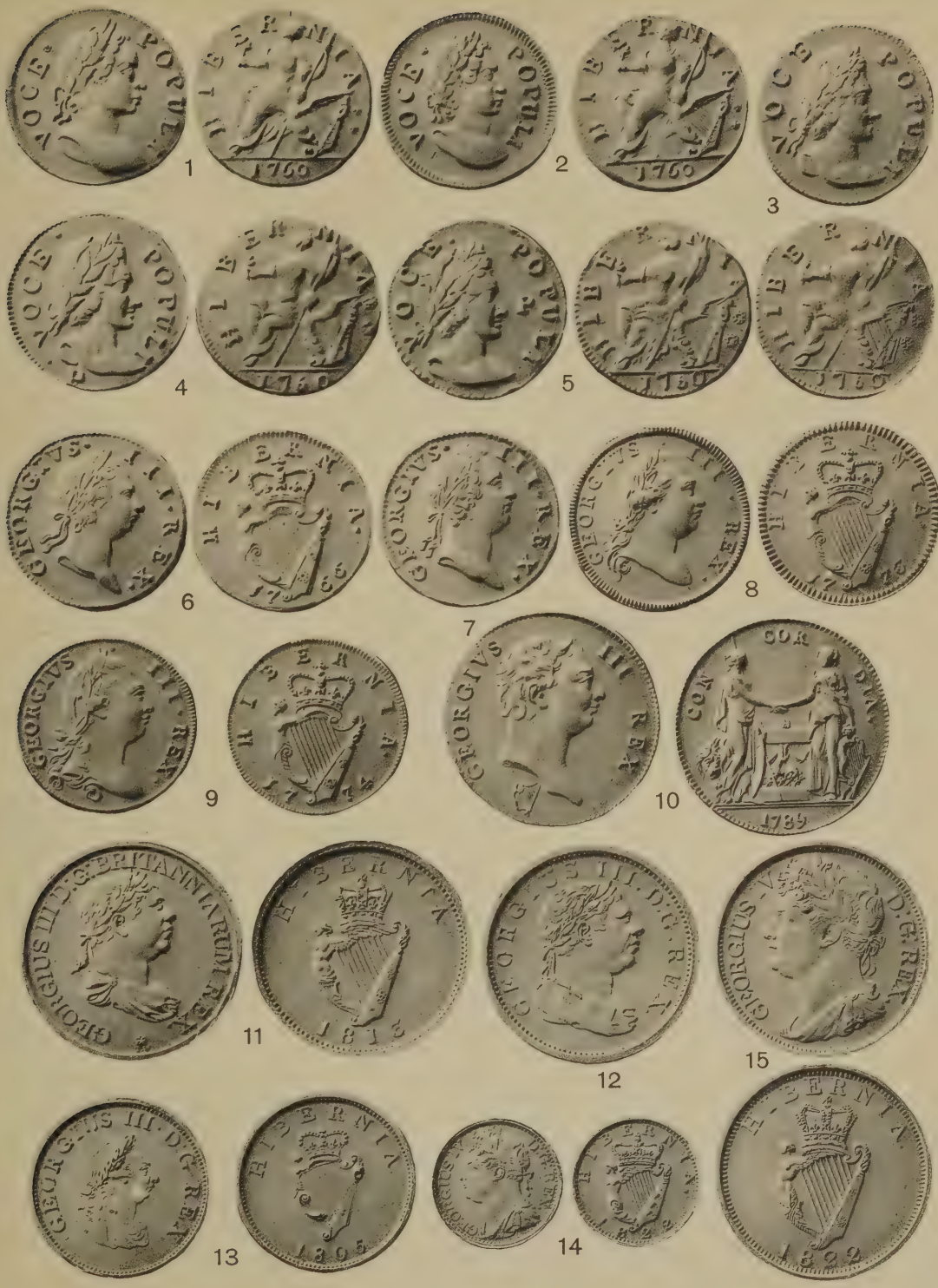


COPPER COINAGE OF IRELAND. Pl. V.



COPPER COINAGE OF IRELAND. PI. VI.

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